

Israeli minister: Palestinians need to compromise

DAN PERRY

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — With crisis looming for recently restarted Mideast peace talks, Israel's deputy prime minister on Monday urged the Palestinians to relax their demand that a freeze on new Jewish settlement construction be extended past its planned weekend expiration. Palestinian officials quickly rejected the idea, leaving a deadlock in place.

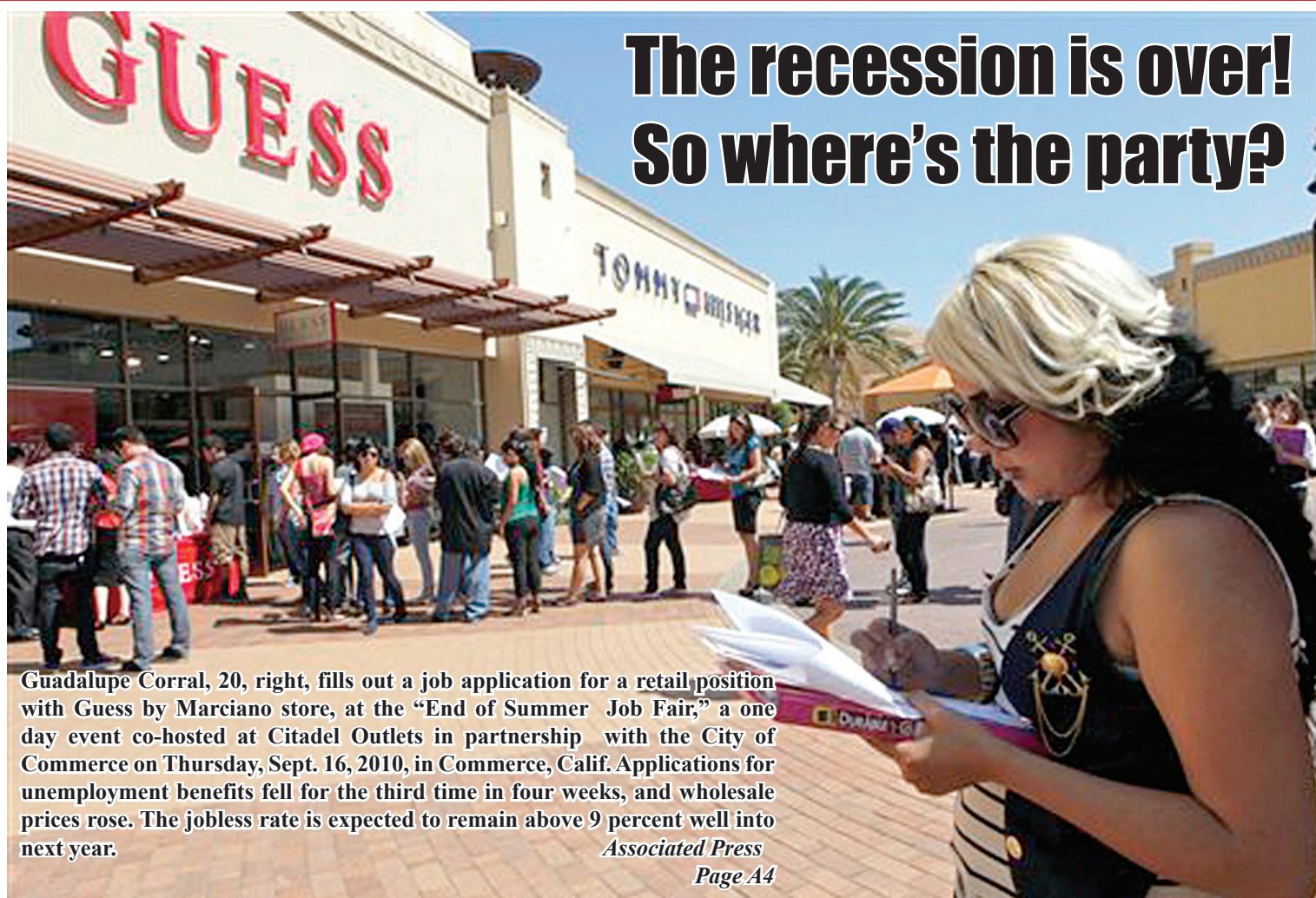
"In order to succeed in these negotiations both parties need to understand that (neither side) can come out of them with all that they wanted," said Dan Meridor, describing the dispute as an indicator of Palestinian good faith on broader issues. "The first test for spirit of compromise on both sides is this issue of moratorium. If they say no compromise it's a bad sign." Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and other top officials have repeatedly said that if Israel resumes settlement construction in the West Bank they will walk away from the talks, which resumed this month under U.S. aegis. Responding to Meridor's comments, Palestinian spokesman Husam Zomlot said that position remained unchanged.

"Flexibility and creativity do not apply on illegality," he told The Associated Press. "If we are unable — and with us the entire world — to persuade Israel to only freeze its illegal settlement expansion, how do we embark on a process that should discuss the dismantling of settlements and the ending of the occupation?"

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Guadalupe Corral, 20, right, fills out a job application for a retail position with Guess by Marciano store, at the "End of Summer Job Fair," a one day event co-hosted at Citadel Outlets in partnership with the City of Commerce on Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, in Commerce, Calif. Applications for unemployment benefits fell for the third time in four weeks, and wholesale prices rose. The jobless rate is expected to remain above 9 percent well into next year.

*Associated Press
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Utah wildfire size cut; sparked at firing range



Home owners and fire crews sift through the remnants of a home that was destroyed by the fire in Herriman Utah on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010. A wind-stoked wildfire sparked at a firing range during a National Guard training session blazed across thousands of acres Monday as crews rushed to keep it from burning more than four homes that were destroyed overnight. The fire moved back on itself Monday as the Utah National Guard acknowledged it wasn't the first time that live-fire exercises had sparked a fire at Camp Williams, a sprawling compound 30 miles south of Salt Lake City.

*(AP Photo/Scott G Winterton, Pool)
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Utah wildfire size cut; sparked at firing range



The remains of a burned house are seen on Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, in Harriman, Utah, after a fire swept through, destroying several homes overnight. A wind-stoked wildfire sparked at a firing range during a National Guard training session blazed across thousands of acres Monday.

(AP Photo/Jennifer Dobner)

By JENNIFER DOBNER, Associated Press Writer
HERRIMAN, Utah — A wind-stoked wildfire sparked at a firing range during a National Guard training session blazed across thousands of acres Monday as crews rushed to keep it from burning more than the three homes that authorities said were destroyed overnight. The fire moved back on itself Monday as the Utah National Guard acknowledged it wasn't the first time that live-fire exercises had sparked a fire at Camp Williams, a sprawling compound 30 miles south of Salt Lake City.

Revising earlier reports, fire spokesman Mike Bohling told The Associated Press that three homes were destroyed, not four. Bohling attributed the widely reported discrepancy to confusion during the overnight firefighting operation, and said several sheds, recreational vehicles and at least one water pump house had been damaged or destroyed in the fire area. Overnight conditions helped firefighters get a handle on the blaze by Monday morning and keep it from spreading, but authorities were trying to keep the evacuated area clear of people as a precaution.

"If we get a change of winds, a pickup in winds, it's game-on again," Salt Lake County Sheriff Jim Winder said. "Right now we're in a fairly static situation but it could turn on us again."

Residents and Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon were questioning the National Guard's decision to fire weapons in dry and windy conditions Sunday, but Lt. Col. Hank McIntire said wind wasn't a factor until after the fire took hold.

"There's always the possibility that some ammunition will catch brush on fire. We felt like we had it extinguished yesterday, then some embers reignited in the wind and it got away from us," McIntire told AP on Monday. "That's when the wind picked up and got it going again, and it rolled through Camp Williams."

By early Monday, 1,652 homes had been evacuated, said fire information officer Jason Curry.

Another fire spokeswoman, Kim Osborn, said authorities got a better estimate on the damage by Monday afternoon and reduced it from 10,000 acres to about 3,500, or less than 6 square miles.

Five tanker planes were in the air, dropping suppressant and trying to get as much of the fire under control before Tuesday,

when winds were expected to increase, she said.

"We're doing all that we can to keep everybody safe," Osborn said. "It's looking good now." Winder said he didn't expect any more evacuations as firefighters continued to get the fire under control Monday.

All four homeowners whose property was destroyed had been notified, he said.

"If you haven't been told that your house has burned down, your house hasn't burned down," Winder said. "What we're doing our best to do here is to ensure that not only no other houses get burned and that nobody gets hurt. And then if the wind does change, we've already got people out. We don't want a ton of people back in this evacuated area."

Herriman is rural community on the southwest side of the Salt Lake Valley. It's flanked to the south and west by mountains. North and west are the valley's suburban communities, with a combined population of about a million.

McIntire told the AP that dry brush had caught fire during artillery training on a machine gun range, and soldiers did not have the manpower or equipment to stop it from rapidly spreading.

"It was kind of a perfect storm scenario where once the fire started on the firing range at the

National Guard base, the wind really kicked up," said Lt. Don Hutson of the Unified Police Dept., the agency that oversees Salt Lake County. "Literally, the fire was coming down into the backyards of many of these residents."

All that remained at one of the destroyed log homes was a burned out chimney standing near an empty animal pen where the owners, desperate to flee in approaching fire, set two horses and a sheep free and hoped the animals could get themselves out of danger.

The fire had caused no major injuries, officials said, although two police officers were treated for smoke inhalation and a third for minor injuries after being hit by the vehicle of a driver trying to return home, the Deseret News reported.

Corroon issued an emergency declaration at 11:30 p.m., and the Federal Emergency Management said it would pay 75 percent of the state's firefighting costs.

Winds racing through the area at 40 to 50 miles per hour pushed the fire over a mountain ridge and into the Salt Lake Valley, Hutson said.

"It was lifesaving efforts trying to get people out of the area because of a very, very fast-moving fire — literally moving faster than anybody could run," he said. □

Fire under NY bridge halts commuter rail for hours

NEW YORK — A large fire under a bridge sent billowing smoke over New York and shut down commuter rail service between Manhattan and the northern suburbs for over two hours on Monday. No injuries were reported. Television images showed pilings burning in the Harlem River under the 138th Street lift bridge and FDNY marine units hitting the fire with water. Huge orange flames were visible, and plumes of white and black smoke wafted over the river and East Harlem. The fire began shortly before noon and was declared under control around 1:30 p.m. Metro-North resumed service around 2:30 p.m., with scattered delays of up to

15 minutes. It said two of the four tracks on the bridge had been restored. The railroad was assessing damage on the remaining tracks and its impact, if any, on the evening rush-hour. Riders were instructed to use subway connections during the Metro-North shutdown. The fire department said the cause of the fire was not immediately known. Suburban commuters have had a tough go of it recently. The Long Island Rail Road suffered a week of service disruptions following an Aug. 23 fire in Jamaica, Queens, that damaged a switching system. On Thursday evening, a storm left downed trees on the tracks, causing LIRR suspensions. □



This frame grab from video released by WABC-TV in New York shows fire and smoke beneath the 138th Street lift bridge on the Harlem River, Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, in New York. Train service was suspended in and out of Grand Central Terminal at 11:45 a.m. Trains approaching Manhattan and the south Bronx are being held at the nearest station.

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13 from Calif. sect found in park after tense hunt

By JACOB ADELMAN,
Associated Press Writer

PALMDALE, Calif. — Families of the missing fretted. Deputies fanned out across the high desert on horses and in helicopters. Neighbors marveled at the commotion of patrol cars and satellite trucks that appeared suddenly in their quiet streets.

The only people who seemed to take the disappearance of 13 adherents of a breakaway religious sect in stride were the members themselves, who were found enjoying the afternoon in leisure and prayer in a park Sunday.

"I guess it was a misunderstanding, and I'm sorry about that," Martha Clavel, 39, told KNX radio about 24 hours she and the other three adults and nine children were reported missing by worried husbands.

The two men showed deputies letters saying the group was awaiting an apocalyptic event and would soon see Jesus and their dead relatives in heaven.

They accused the group's purported leader, 32-year-old Reyna Marisol Chicas,

of "brainwashing" members of the group based in Palmdale, a northeast Los Angeles County city of 139,000.

"These letters read like a will and testament. They read like goodbye letters," said sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore. "Coupled with the two husbands that come in and tell us 'Our wives are missing, we believe they are under the spell of this lady,'" deputies had no choice but to treat the matter seriously, said Whitmore.

Before Sunday, when the group of El Salvadoran immigrants were found just before noon at Jackie Robinson Park near Palmdale, they were last seen very early Saturday by a sheriff's deputy who discovered them praying in their parked vehicles outside of a Palmdale high school.

When the deputy made contact, adults in the group told him they were praying against violence in schools and against sexual immorality, specifically premarital sex.

Later in the afternoon, the two men reported the members missing.

In a purse that one member left with her husband, investigators found cell phones, identifications, deeds to property, and letters indicating the adherents were awaiting the Rapture.

The woman had asked her husband to pray over the purse, sheriff's Captain Mike Parker said.

"In essence, they indicated there may be a journey to the next world," Whitmore said of the letters.

Group member Alma Miranda Pleitez, 28, said fears for their safety were unfounded.

"That's our husband. When you go somewhere overnight, you don't know what's going to happen to you right?" Alma Miranda Pleitez told KNX radio at the park shortly after she was found. "So you leave your information to your husband."

By the next morning, up to 70 deputies were combing over a 700 square mile checkerboard of suburban neighborhoods, unfinished subdivisions, weed-covered lots and desert wilderness in search of the missing group members. □



Members of a breakaway religious sect prepare to leave after they were located by Los Angeles County Sheriffs officers at Jackie Robinson Park, outside Palmdale in Littlerock, Calif., Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010. The group was found praying at the park Sunday, halting a frantic search for the five adults and eight children who went missing after writing letters to family members saying goodbye.

(AP Photo/Gus Ruelas)

Gulf oil well is dead but the pain will remain

By HARRY R. WEBER,
Associated Press Writer

The well that spewed millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico is finally dead, but residents will be feeling the pain for years to come.

A permanent cement plug sealed BP's well nearly 2.5 miles below the sea floor, five agonizing months after an explosion sank a drilling rig and led to the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the federal government's point man on the disaster, said Sunday that BP's well "is effectively dead" and posed no further threat to the Gulf. Allen said a pressure test to ensure the cement plug would hold was completed at 5:54 a.m. CDT. But there is still plenty of oil in the water, and some continues to wash up on

shore.

Many people are still struggling to make ends meet with some waters still closed to fishing. Shrimpers who are allowed to fish are finding it difficult to sell their catch because of the perception — largely from people outside the region — that the seafood is not safe to eat. Tourism along the Gulf has also taken a hit.

The April 20 blast killed 11 workers, and 206 million gallons of oil spewed.

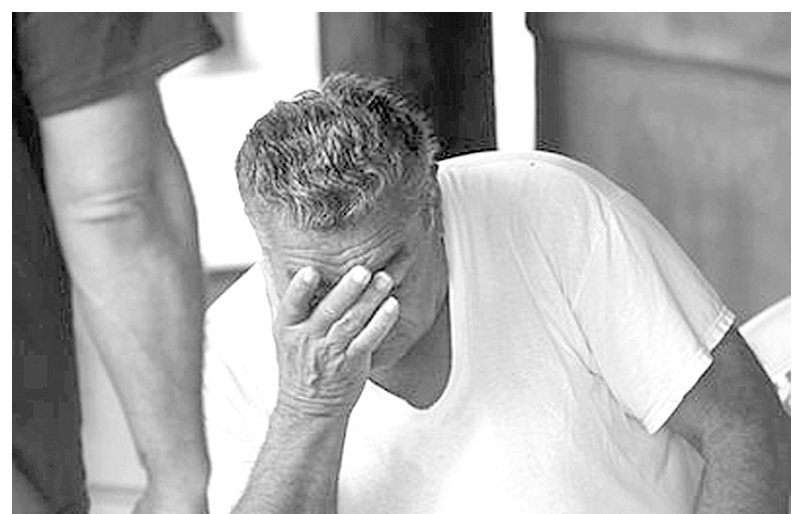
The gusher was contained in mid-July after a temporary cap was successfully fitted atop the well. Mud and cement were later pushed down through the top of the well, allowing the cap to be removed.

But the well could not be declared dead until a relief well was drilled so that the

ruptured well could be sealed from the bottom, ensuring it never causes a problem again. The relief well intersected the blown-out well last Thursday, and crews started pumping in the cement Friday.

The spill caused an environmental and economic nightmare for people who live, work and play along hundreds of miles of Gulf shoreline from Florida to Texas. It also spurred civil and criminal investigations, cost gaffe-prone BP chief Tony Hayward his job, and brought increased governmental scrutiny of the oil and gas industry, including a costly moratorium on deepwater offshore drilling that is still in place.

The disaster also has taken a toll on the once mighty oil giant BP PLC. The British company's stock price took



FILE - In this May 1, 2010 file photo, Frank Campo, owner of Campo Marina, pauses as he discusses the threats to the region and his livelihood from the oil spill from the Deepwater Horizon rig at his Marina in Shell Beach, La. Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the federal government's point man on the disaster, said Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010, BP's well 'is effectively dead.' A permanent cement plug sealed BP's well nearly 2.5 miles below the sea floor in the Gulf of Mexico, five agonizing months after an explosion sank a drilling rig and led to the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

a nosedive after the explosion, though it has recovered somewhat. Its image as a steward

of the environment was stained and its stated commitment to safety was challenged. □



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Recession pain still real, despite end, Obama says



Reporters watch on a TV screen US President Barack Obama, seen here on TV speaking at a town hall discussion on jobs and the economy, dismissed suggestions Monday that his cerebral style and exotic background made it tough for him to empathize with the seething economic fears of heartland Americans.

By JULIE PACE,
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama said Monday he doesn't care that the Great Recession has been declared over by a group of economists. For the millions of people who are out of work or otherwise struggling, he said, "it's still very real for them."

Obama denied that he was anti-business or anti-Wall Street in his economic proposals, commenting under close questioning during a town hall-style meeting broadcast live on CNBC.

He offered a mixed verdict on the growing tea party, calling its skepticism of government "healthy...That's in our DNA, right?"

But, he added, "The challenge for the tea party movement is to identify specifically 'What would you do?'" to help turn around the economy and produce jobs.

"It's not enough just to say, 'Get control of government.' I think it's important for you to say, 'You know, I'm willing to cut veterans' benefits or Social Security benefits or I'm willing to see these taxes go up.'"

The government can't simply cut taxes on the nation's wealthiest people "and magically think things are going to work out," he said.

Focusing on the poor economic conditions that existed when he took office, Obama said, "The hole was so deep that a lot of people out there are still hurting."

He spoke shortly after the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private panel of economists that dates the beginnings and ends of recessions, said the downturn that began in December 2007 ended in June 2009. At 18 months, that makes it the longest recession since World War II.

"Something that took ten years to create is going to take a little more time to solve," Obama said.

"Even though economists may say that the recession officially ended last year, obviously for the millions of people who are still out of work, people who have seen their home values decline, people who are struggling to pay the bills day to day, it's still very real for them," Obama said.

He participated in the hour-long session before heading to Pennsylvania to raise money for Democratic Senate candidate Joe Sestak, who is locked in a tight race for a seat considered a must-win for the president's party. The seat is currently in Democratic hands, but polls show it to be a tight race.

The group assembled for the session included large and small business owners, teachers,

students and unemployed people.

A woman who said she was the chief financial officer for a veterans' service organization told Obama, "I'm exhausted of defending you, defending your administration, defending the mantle of change that I voted for, and deeply disappointed with where we are right now."

"Is this my new reality?" she asked.

Obama told her, "My goal is not to convince you that everything is where it ought to be. It's not." Still, Obama said that things were "moving in the right direction" under policies he has put in place.

Republican Party chief Michael Steele panned Obama's TV performance. "Once again, President Obama trotted out the same old worn-out reassurances on the economy, but Americans are still waiting for the promised recovery that never arrived," Steele said.

A 30-year old law school graduate who said he couldn't find a job and couldn't even make interest payments on his student loans told Obama he was inspired by Obama's 2008 campaign but "that inspiration is dying away." "The most important thing we can do right now is grow our economy," Obama said. "What we can't do is go back to the same old things we were doing."

CNBC's John Harwood, the moderator, asked Obama if he had any plans to replace his two top economic advisers — Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and chief economic adviser Lawrence Summers.

House Republican leader John Boehner has called for Obama to fire both of them, contending their economic advice to him has not been helpful.

Obama sidestepped a direct answer but said, "This is tough work that they do."

"We're constantly asking, 'Is what we're doing working as well as it could?'"

Harwood at one point asked Obama how serious he was about deficit reduction. Polls show that Americans are deeply concerned about the government's rising deficit, and Republicans have repeatedly tried to make it a campaign issue, calling for more government belt tightening.

"I can't give tax cuts to the top 2 percent of Americans ... and lower the deficit at the same time," Obama said. "At some point, the numbers just don't work."

"The first thing you do in a hole is not dig it deeper."

Obama pressed his effort to cast Democrats as fighters for the middle class and Republicans as protectors of "millionaires and billionaires" and special interests. □

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Texas father accused of killing his 3 children

HOUSTON – A Texas father accused of shooting his three children to death as they slept had previously threatened to kill or hurt himself if he lost visitation rights, an attorney said.

After Mohammed Goher's two daughters, ages 14 and 7, and a 12-year-old son were killed Sunday, authorities said Goher shot himself in the mouth in an apparent suicide attempt. He was in fair condition Monday at Ben Taub Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Goher was charged with three counts of capital murder, said Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Jamie Wagner. It was unknown whether he had an attorney.

He is divorced from the children's mother, Norma Goher, but had court-ordered visitation rights, according to the statement. Records show he was convicted in 2006 of beating his wife, who lived in a shelter for battered women. The father's visitation rights were to be the subject of a court hearing in Houston later this month. Syed Izfar, appointed by the court to represent the children in the hearing, told the Houston Chronicle he was going to suggest Goher receive standard visitation. Izfar did not immediately return phone calls from The Associated Press.

On Friday, as had been the custom since the Gohers' separated, the children went to stay with their father at his apartment, which is attached to a convenience store where Goher worked, about three miles south of Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport. He was to have returned them Sunday afternoon to their mother, who had custody of the children during the week, authorities said.

"By all appearances, this was a man who loved his children. What a nightmare," Izfar told the Chronicle. "He had it in his mind that the children would be taken away from him forever."

The 47-year-old father had threatened to kill or hurt himself if he lost visitation, Izfar said, adding that he was unaware of Goher ever

harming the children.

On Sunday morning as the children slept, Goher got out a handgun, authorities said. Harris County Homicide Sgt. Ben Beall told the Chronicle Goher shot one of his girls in a bedroom and his son and other daughter who were asleep in another room. Then, Beall said, Goher shot himself. According to the Harris County Sheriff's office, Goher was expected to survive. □

Police work at the scene where three children were fatally shot in what officials say was a triple murder and attempted suicide, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010 in Houston. The children were found dead Sunday at the suburban Houston apartment building, next to the A & D Food Market and their father was charged with their murders after surviving an apparent suicide attempt, authorities said.

(AP Photo/Houston Chronicle, Melissa Phillip)



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N. Korea to hold key party convention next week



A large campaign poster is posted in a street, promoting a Workers' Party conference early this month in Pyongyang, North Korea, Monday, Sept. 6, 2010. North Korea's ruling communist party members gathered in Pyongyang ahead of their largest political conference in 30 years, state media reported Monday, amid predictions that leader Kim Jong Il would use the meeting to give a key ruling party position to one of his sons. The campaign slogans in the poster reads: "Let us mark the representatives' meeting of the Workers' Party of Korea as a celebration that will shine in the history of our party and our country."

Associated Press

At least 23 soldiers killed in Tajikistan ambush

By OLGA TUTUBALINA

Associated Press Writer

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan – Heavily armed Islamic militants ambushed a military convoy in eastern Tajikistan, killing at least 23 soldiers and dealing a severe blow to this impoverished nation on Afghanistan's poorly secured northern border.

The Sunday ambush is the deadliest attack on security forces in years and underscores the dangers the Islamic militants pose to the government of this ex-Soviet nation.

The country, which shares a 830-mile porous border with Afghanistan, is still reeling from its five-year civil war in the 1990s that pitted a loose coalition of Islamic fighters and nationalists against former Soviet functionaries. About 100,000 people died in the hostilities.

The military convoy was attacked near Rasht district, an area about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of the Afghan border, Defense Ministry spokesman Faridun Makhmadaliyev said Monday. He said the attackers, which included militants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Russia's volatile southern region of Chechnya, were led by Mullo Abdullo, a radical Islamic commander who took an active part in the civil war. Abdullo fled to Afghanistan after the end of the civil war in 1997, but he is believed to have returned to his native country some time last year.

Another warlord, Alovuddin Davlatov, is also suspected to have taken part in Sunday's ambush, Makhmadaliyev said. Davlatov's brother, a politician with the opposition Islamic Revival Party, was detained by security services 10 days ago on suspicion of belonging to a banned extremist organization.

Many soldiers were also seriously wounded and were evacuated for treatment, Makhmadaliyev said.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon, who is currently in New York to attend a session of the United Nations General Assembly, ordered the attackers brought to justice.

Rakhmon has ruled this nation with a heavy hand since 1992, drawing frequent criticism abroad for human rights violations and media and opposition suppression.

HYUNG-JIN KIM,

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea will hold its much-anticipated Workers' Party convention — the secretive nation's biggest political meeting in 30 years — next week, state media said Tuesday.

The gathering in Pyongyang is being watched closely for signs that aging North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has anointed a son to succeed him and will formally reveal the plan by appointing his heir to top party posts.

Workers' Party delegates will meet Sept. 28 to elect new party leaders, the official Korean Central News Agency said in a dispatch from Pyongyang. The report did not explain why the meeting, initially set for "early September," had

been postponed.

Delegates across the country were appointed "against the background of a high-pitched drive for effecting a new great revolutionary surge now under way on all fronts for building a thriving nation with the historic conference," KCNA said.

The conference is the first major Workers' Party gathering since the landmark 1980 congress where a young Kim Jong Il, then 31, made his political debut, an appearance seen as confirmation that he would eventually succeed his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung.

Kim Jong Il took over in 1994 when his father died of heart failure in what was communism's first hereditary transfer of power.

Now 68, and reportedly in poor

health two years after suffering a stroke, Kim is believed to be setting in motion a plan to tap a son to take the Kim dynasty into a third generation.

Little is known about the son widely believed to be his father's favorite. Kim Jong Un, said to be in his late 20s, has never been mentioned in state media, and there are no reliable photos of him as an adult.

South Korean intelligence officers believe Pyongyang has launched a propaganda campaign promoting the son, including songs and poems praising the junior Kim. North Korean soldiers and workers reportedly pledged allegiance to the son on his birthday in January.

North Korea's state propaganda machine has been churning out commentaries calling for loyalty to the Kim family, an apparent effort to set to the stage for a smooth power transition.

"Kim Jong Il directed primary efforts into turning our party into an ideologically pure entity based on the President's revolutionary idea in the whole course of leading the party work," the main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in an editorial carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

It's not known what party position Kim Jong Un might be granted during the conference in what would be his first publicly known official job. Delegates are expected to elect new party leaders to fill spots left vacant for years.

The announcement of the date comes weeks after North Korea had been expected to hold the conference but was struggling to cope with devastating flooding and a deadly typhoon. □



In this Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010, an elderly Tajik man stares through a bus window with posters of some of the recent prison escapees still at large, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Associated Press

Police patrols in the Tajik capital already have been increased amid rising tension following a string of terrorist blasts and a large-scale prison escape by Islamist insurgents and government opponents.

A suicide bombing against a police station in the northern city of Khujand earlier this month claimed two victims and wounded 25. Days later, a bomb was detonated in a disco in Dushanbe, wounding seven.

Authorities believe Islamic militants were responsible for both bombings.

Most Islamist fighters gave up armed resistance after reaching an uneasy peace settlement with the government. But many returned with a hard-line anti-government position over concerns they were being squeezed out of official positions granted to them as part of the peace agreement.

Military activity in the remote and mountainous Rasht Valley, where Abdullo is believed to have taken refuge, has picked up in recent weeks as authorities seek to capture 18 men still on the run after a dramatic prison breakout last month.

Only seven of the 25 fugitives, who included many Islamic militants and government opponents, have been captured. □



Two Belgian bishops want debate on priest celibacy

Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS – Two Belgian bishops openly questioned mandatory celibacy for Roman Catholic priests, rekindling a debate Monday within the scandal-hit church.

The bishop of Hasselt, Patrick Hoogmartens, and his counterpart in Bruges, Jozef De Kesel, said in separate comments that married men should not automatically be excluded from priesthood.

The comments come amid the scandal over sex abuse among the clergy which has shaken the Belgian church to its core.

Some have questioned whether celibacy is in part to blame and have called for the rule to be rethought. The Vatican insists celibacy isn't responsible and has defended it as nonnegotiable, even as the number of priests around the world continues to decline.

A spokesman for Archbishop Andre-Mutien Leonard, the head of Belgium's

Roman Catholic Church, said in reaction to the two bishops' comments that any discussion of structural issues surrounding the church should be held at a global level, and not be limited to Belgium.

Pope Benedict XVI has staunchly defended celibacy, saying in June that it is a "great sign of faith."

However, in Belgium and other countries, celibacy has been linked to the shortage of new priests in Europe's parishes and to the sex abuse scandal.

Even though the Hasselt bishop said that abolishing celibacy would not solve the problem of abuse, he did see a possibility for married priests to serve alongside those who vow celibacy.

"I can imagine two sorts of priesthood.

Those who live celibately and those who have a relationship — are married," Hoogmartens told VRT radio.

Over the weekend, the new

Bruges bishop questioned whether the church should stick to mandatory celibacy. "People for whom celibacy is humanly impossible should also have a chance to become a priest," he said.

De Kesel became Bruges bishop after his predecessor, Roger Vangheluwe, admitted that he had sexually abused a nephew of his for years when he was a priest and bishop. Vangheluwe was forced to resign in April.

In a report released in Belgium this month, hundreds of sex abuse victims disclosed harrowing accounts of molestation by Catholic clergy in the country over the past 50 years.

The Belgian church then acknowledged widespread sexual abuse over the years by its clergy, and pleaded for time to set up a system to punish all abusers and provide closure for victims.

Leonard's spokesman, Juergen Mettepenningen, said the celibacy stand of the two bishops should be



Catholic and Church of England bishops gather at Lambeth Palace, the official residence of The Archbishop of Canterbury, in London, as they await the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Benedict XVI took part in activities on the second day of a four-day visit to England and Scotland.

Associated Press

taken in the context of the current abuse scandal. But he insisted that both bishops put an emphasis on the need to care for abuse victims first, saying Leonard also considers that the church's priority now.

Celibacy has become an increasingly touchy issue over the years, despite Benedict's steadfast defense. Austrian Cardinal Christoph

Schoenborn has said the matter should be discussed. Earlier this year, he declined to publicly criticize a local bishop who had said it should be up to priests to decide whether they want to live a celibate life and that he would welcome it if married men could be ordained. The bishop also said the ordination of women should eventually be considered. □

Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," *Fodor's Travel Guide*

Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

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Venezuela sends two drug suspects to United States



National Guard officers escort suspected Colombia's drug trafficker Jaime Alberto Marin, center, aka "Beto Marin", allegedly the boss of the Norte del Valle cartel, before being extradited to the U.S., at the Simon Bolivar airport in Maiquetia, Venezuela, Monday, Sept. 20, 2010.

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela deported two drug trafficking suspects to the United States on Monday, including an alleged boss of the powerful Norte del Valle cartel in neighboring Colombia. The action came only days after the U.S. criticized Venezuela's cooperation in fighting illegal narcotics.

Justice Minister Tareck El

Aissami said U.S. authorities had offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to the capture of Jaime Alberto Marin, a leader of the Norte del Valle cartel also known as "Beto Marin." Another suspected trafficker, Omar Guzman Martinez, was also deported, El Aissami said.

State television broadcast footage of both suspects,

who wore handcuffs and bulletproof vests, as they were escorted to a waiting plane by heavily armed police at Simon Bolivar International Airport. National Guard troops and agents from Venezuela's anti-drug force arrested Marin on Sept. 16 on Margarita Island, a resort off Venezuela's Caribbean coast. Guzman Martinez, who is from the Dominican Republic, was arrested on Aug. 25 in Caracas.

Venezuelan state television reported that Marin took control of the Norte del Valle cartel after Wilber Varela, alias "Jabon," or "Soap," one of Colombia's most-wanted traffickers, was killed in 2008. Marin has been wanted in the U.S. since 2007 on charges of drug trafficking and money laundering.

Guzman Martinez is wanted in the U.S. for purportedly shipping cocaine to the United States.

Venezuela has become a major hub for traffickers smuggling Colombian cocaine to the United States and Europe.

U.S. and Colombian officials have accused President Hugo Chavez's government of lax anti-drug efforts, while Chavez insists his government is doing everything possible to stem the flow of drugs through Venezuela.

El Aissami rejected the findings of a White House report released last week that accused Venezuela of failing to cooperate with other countries in fighting drug trafficking.

"We don't accept blackmail or pressure from the empire," he said, referring to the U.S. government.

"The manner in which the U.S. government judges the anti-drug policies of other countries is irresponsible, arbitrary and unilateral," he added. El Aissami said Venezuela has captured dozens of suspected major drug traffickers in recent years, including 16 so far this year.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press, the U.S. Embassy in Caracas applauded the deportation of Marin and Guzman Martinez.

"We view the arrest and

transfer to the United States of two major narco-traffickers, Juan Alberto Marin and Omar Guzman Martinez, by Venezuelan authorities as a valuable and positive development," it said. "These are very dangerous, violent individuals with outstanding warrants in the United States. The Venezuelan police officers who made these arrests demonstrated excellent police work in bringing these two drug traffickers to justice." The embassy also noted Washington is seeking closer cooperation with Chavez's government.

"While this is a positive step, the United States seeks additional and deeper cooperation with the Venezuelan government," the statement said.

Chavez suspended cooperation with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in 2005, accusing its agents of espionage — an accusation the DEA denied. Two DEA agents still work in Venezuela, but U.S. Embassy officials say their work has been severely restricted. □



Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Dan Meridor listens to questions from journalists during a meeting with the media in Jerusalem, Monday, Sept. 20, 2010. Meridor said Monday the Palestinians need to "compromise" in their demand that Israel extend its slowdown of West Bank settlement construction. Israel's 10-month slowdown expires in a week and Palestinians say they will walk out of newly restarted peace talks if settlement activity resumes.

ISRAELI MINISTER

Continued from Front Page

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday called on the Palestinians not to impose conditions for the talks.

"I want to give these talks a chance to succeed. And I very much hope that President Abbas will have the same attitude," he told a group of American Jewish leaders. "I

expect him to sit down with me even when we disagree, and to work with me through those disagreements in a sincere effort to forge a historic compromise, which I believe is possible."

Speaking with foreign correspondents, Meridor said that if the current negotiations on a final peace settlement broke down, there was an alternative: a

"bottom-up" approach in which the existing Palestinian Authority — ruling a collection of autonomous zones established in the 1990s throughout the West Bank — could be extended in various ways, with "other authorities, jurisdictions and powers."

The Palestinians oppose anything less than a full settlement, concerned that a partial deal that eases pressure on Israel would perpetuate a situation that falls far short of their expectations — for example, by not including a sharing of Jerusalem, the city both sides want for a capital. Meridor noted that the Palestinians rejected a far-reaching 2008 offer from Netanyahu's more dovish predecessor, Ehud Olmert. On Sunday, Olmert gave his most detailed description yet of that peace offer, saying he proposed a Palestinian state on more than 90 percent of the West Bank, with land swaps to make up for any land Israel annexed. The West Bank and Gaza — now ruled by the Islamist Hamas

movement, which opposes the peace talks — were to be linked with a passage through Israeli territory. Olmert said the Palestinians were to have a capital in the Arab neighborhoods of east Jerusalem, and the coveted Old City, with its holy sites, was to be governed jointly by Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United States. He also said Israel would have recognized the suffering of Palestinian refugees who lost their homes in the fighting around Israel's creation and would have agreed to repatriate a small number.

Although Netanyahu is widely seen as unlikely to repeat such an offer, he did part ways with his longtime ideology by formally accepting the idea of a Palestinian state soon after taking office in 2009; in November of that year, under intense U.S. pressure, he also halted most settlement construction, saying he would keep the measure in place for 10 months, a period that expires Sunday.

Under the so-called "moratorium," Israel refrained from new housing starts in the settlements, but several thousand units already being built were allowed to continue. While the measure does not apply to Jewish neighborhoods in east Jerusalem, where the Palestinians want to locate their capital, there has been a de facto halt to new construction there as well.

The Palestinians want the moratorium to stay in place and the United States has urged Israel to comply, at least for a period. But members of Netanyahu's Likud Party and key partners in his government oppose this, meaning the premier would likely face coalition trouble if he gave in.

Meridor said he had proposed that Israel resume building in only those parts of the West Bank that might remain in Israeli hands under a future deal — excluding, for example, most settlements deep inside the territory. □



A French soldier patrols at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010 as France is facing an elevated threat of terrorism. France's Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux pointed to the kidnapping of five French nationals in Africa overnight and a bomb alert Tuesday that led to the evacuation of the Eiffel Tower.

JAMEY KEATEN,
Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — France is on alert for possible terrorism after intelligence suggested that attackers might target a public gathering place, with one lead pointing to a female suicide bomber, a counterterrorism official said Monday.

The official told The Associated Press that authorities had been bracing for a possible attack last Thursday. Nothing unusual happened that day in France, but authorities are not letting their guard down, the official

said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of office policy.

The scare came as five French workers and two African colleagues were kidnapped in Niger, part of the African turf of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. On Sept. 14, there was a false bomb alert at the Eiffel Tower.

Last week, the Senate voted to ban burqa-style Islamic veils in France, a subject that has prompted warnings by al-Qaida's Maghreb group.

Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux said Monday that

“the terrorist threat is real, and today our vigilance, therefore, is reinforced.” Speaking during a visit to the Seine-et-Marne region east of Paris, he did not elaborate on the additional security measures taken. Despite the warnings, Hortefeux said France has not raised its terror alert level to scarlet, the highest ranking. It remains at red, the second-highest on the four-level scale.

Armed guards have been assigned to the rector of the Grande Mosque of Paris, the prominent moderate Dalil

France raises terror security, new threat reported

Boubakeur, since Friday, because of a new threat, according to the mosque spokesman.

The three guards are with him “morning, noon and evening,” spokesman Slimane Nadour said Monday by telephone, adding: “We have no information on the nature of the threat.”

Similar armed protection was given to Boubakeur, who is of Algerian origin, in 1997 when death threats were issued, Nadour said. Those threats came in the form of fatwas, or Islamic judicial opinions, when Algeria was engulfed in a brutal Islamist insurgency that continues sporadically today.

It was not immediately clear whether other figures in France were recently given special protection.

The counterterrorism official reached by the AP confirmed a report on RTL radio that said authorities had received information about a possible suicide bombing by a woman.

The official declined to give other details.

RTL radio said the alert came from French and North African sources. It said the information was deemed so credible that Hortefeux canceled a two-day visit outside Paris, and security agents searched the city's transport system throughout the day but came up empty-handed.

That same day, however, Hortefeux held a news conference under the Eiffel Tower to announce that France faced an elevated risk of terrorism.

“An array of clues dating from the last few days and even the last few hours show the terrorist threat is at an elevated level,” Hortefeux said at the time. “It is a real threat.”

An official with the RATP, Paris' public transit system, said there were “no specific threats” against the French capital's bus and rail network and added “we are not doing any more, or any less than usual” in terms of security. The official declined to provide his name in accordance with RATP policy. The national railway operator SNCF had no comment on the matter.

The Interior Ministry would not comment Monday on the radio report. French authorities were alerted to threats by Islamist radicals in notes last week by intelligence agents that evoke an “anti-French focus” by al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the daily Le Monde reported on Monday.

Le Monde quoted one note as saying the threats against France have intensified in recent weeks. It said the notes were written days before the kidnapping last Thursday of seven people working at a huge uranium mine in Niger run by France's state-owned nuclear power giant Areva. French authorities suspect the kidnappings were the work of al-Qaida's North African branch. □

Report: Poor countries face education crisis

By JASON STRAZIUSO

Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya — Nearly 70 million children around the world are not getting an education despite much progress in the last 10 years, and Haiti and Somalia are the two worst countries in which to be a school-age child, a new report released Monday said.

The global financial crisis has forced poor countries to cut their education budgets by \$4.6 billion a year at a time when intensified efforts are needed to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goal of ensuring a primary school education for every child in the world by 2015, it said.

The report listed 10 countries at the bottom of the education list, all but Haiti are in Africa.

In addition to Somalia, the others are Eritrea, Comoros, Ethiopia, Chad, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Liberia.

It based the rankings on access to basic education, teacher-student ratio and educational provisions for girls.

Even Kenya, considered successful compared to its East African neighbors, had to delay free education to 9.7 million children over the last year due to budgetary constraints, the report said.

The report was produced by Education International, Plan International, Oxfam, Save the Children and VSO.

“Education is now on the brink,” Kailash Satyarthi, president of the Global Campaign for Education which issued the report, told a high-level event in New York on the sidelines of a U.N. summit to promote achievement of the goal.



Women and children fleeing the war in Somalia queue to register at Dadaab, the refugee camp in northern Kenya, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010.

Associated Press

“Sixty-nine million children — more than all the primary school-going children in the United States and Europe — will not be going to school this morning,” he said. “Just \$16 billion per year could pay for every child to go to school.”

The report's “Donor Report Card” gives two countries “A,” the Netherlands and Norway, and four “B,” Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, and Britain. The United States, in 16th place, received a “D” along with France, Germany, New Zealand and others while Greece was at the bottom of the list in 22nd place with an “F.” □



14 horses from Colombia with participated with Aruba and Curacao

Interpaso 2010 a success at Rancho Monte Blanco

Colombia's "Cana de Melao" wins with Aruba's "Maximo de Alto Vista" runner up



ORANJESTAD – Last weekend, 14 Colombian horses flew to Aruba to participate in the highly internationally acclaimed "Interpaso 2010" at Rancho Monte Blanco with one coming out on top. Colombia's "Cana de Melao" won the overall even with Aruba's "Maximo de Alto Vista" as runner up.

Continued on Next Page



Aruban bred "Maximo de Alto Vista" came in as a close runner up in the Interpaso 2010 Equestrian event held on the weekend at Rancho Monte Blanco. Aruban Entrepreneur Herbie Merryweather is the owner of "Maximo de Alto Vista".

~Photos by Anthony Carlo

Leaving behind a legacy of culinary excellence and superb service

Historic Restaurant Chez Matilde Closes

ORANJESTAD - In crossing roads they say there is a time to come and a time to depart.

It is with great sentiment that we announce that as per September 20th, 2010 Chez Matilde Restaurant will cease her operations and close her doors after almost twenty four years of operations, ending an era of much history, memorable moments and leaving behind a legacy of culinary excellence and superb service.

Over the course of the past twenty-four years Chez Matilde has played host to Royalty, world leaders, celebrities and most of all hundreds of thousands of loyal clients.

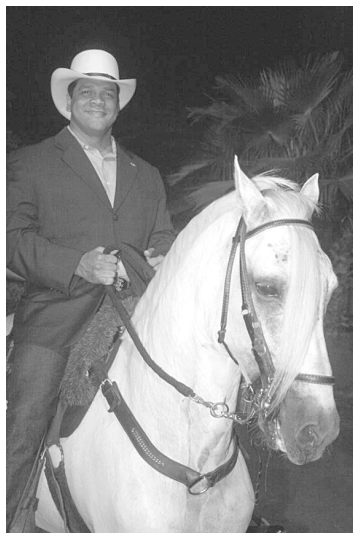
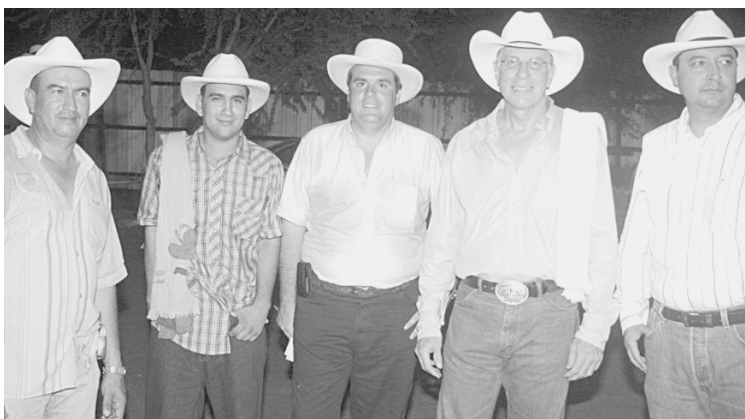
Continued on Page A15



Interpaso 2010 a success at Rancho Monte Blanco



Colombia's "Cana de Melao"



Continued from Page A10
Many of the horses came from cities of Colombia and had been in "Quarantine" in Bogota prior to their arrival to Aruba. During their winning stay on Aruba, they were guests at Rancho "Las Niñas" in Paradera. One of the competition highlight of the weekend was the "Paso Fino" competition where professionally trained horses competed in



perfection. Minister of Sports Dr. Richard Visser opened the grand event and also marked the 25th anniversary of OAC. □



Loyal friends honored at the Divi Village Resort

ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Divi Village Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes at the Divi Village Resort, they call their home away from home. Peter Hewitt, Walter Mc Anney and also Karen Huels were honored as an Ambassador of Goodwill





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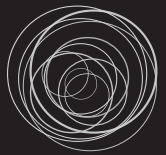


for the Island of Aruba after Croes together with honorees
 visiting for 21 years. and also Gloria from the Divi
 Picture ATA Rep. Ricardo Village Resort. □



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Louis Vuitton is hosting a party for Sofia Coppola



Louis Vuitton is hosting a party for Sofia Coppola to celebrate the premiere of *somewhere*, her new movie, which is showing in official competition at the 67th Venice Film Festival.

The Oscar-winning filmmaker is a long-time friend of Louis Vuitton Artistic Director Marc Jacobs, and in 2009 – inspired by a visit to Louis Vuitton's historic workshop in Asnières – created a chic capsule collection of bags and shoes with the French luxury house. New additions to the Sofia Coppola and Louis Vuitton line of bags, which were hailed as modern classics, will be presented in Louis Vuitton stores from October.

Following this collaboration, Sofia Coppola was photographed alongside her father, Francis Ford Coppola, by Annie Leibovitz



for the award-winning Louis Vuitton corporate advertising campaign. She also served on the jury of the first Louis Vuitton Journeys Awards competition for emerging filmmakers in 2010.

Following the premiere of *somewhere*, guests will gather at the historic Palazzo Polignac, one of the most

important early Renaissance buildings in Venice, for the party hosted by Antoine Arnault, Louis Vuitton Head of Communications, in honour of Sofia Coppola. Guests will include the movie's two leads, Elle Fanning and Stephen Dorff, and French actresses Léa Seydoux and Clémence Poesy, among many others. □





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Ode to Henri Charrière's daring escapes at Papillon restaurant



PALM BEACH - A surprising, 3-course menu at fabulous Papillon restaurant in The Village is the latest 'must-do' thing on the island for locals and visitors alike. Named after the butterfly tattoo of a prisoner, this restaurant's fame has nothing to do with prison fare, as one might surmise. No, this menu is an ode to the mind-boggling escapes of Henri Charrière, France's most notorious convict, who is known all over the world as Papillon. You can read all about his life in his autobiography, 'Papillon'. The unruly prisoner's life story is the restaurant's theme and the décor winks lightheartedly at the incredible hardship that this man has suffered. His book became a best seller, his life turned around and in the end it was a lot better than halfway through..



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Tel. 586-7478 Te Oro ! See you there !

Papillon restaurant is now reliving the journey that Papillon made after he fled French Guyana's hellhole prison. His first stop was Trinidad, then he sailed to Curaçao, skimmed Aruba's coast line and stopped in Rio Hacha, Colombia, before settling down in Venezuela. Papillon's three-course menu makes a stop at all of the above-mentioned countries, delighting the palate with unusual combinations and flavors found in South America.

So let Henri Charrière take you by the hand and let Papillon's excellent chef make magic of your plate. A surprise welcome drink is included. □

Historic Restaurant Chez Matilde Closes



Continued from Page A10

During this time the restaurant maintained a tradition of excellence and became a landmark deeply rooted in the community. It is a sad day for us, but we look back with a lot of pride and satisfaction for the role Chez Matilde has played in setting the highest standards of service, cuisine and Aruban hospitality on our island, for which she has received numerous awards and international prizes and



recognitions.

For these accomplishments we wish to thank, from the bottom of our hearts, our dedicated and loyal staff and management, for a job well done. We also want to

thank you, dear friends of Matilde, for accompanying us throughout this unforgettable journey filled with a lifetime of memories full of happy faces and many celebrations and occasions. □



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Eighth consecutive year

Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts achieve environmental certification

ORANJESTAD - Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts, a leader in sustainable tourism, recently attained ISO 9001-2008 and ISO 14001 certification for the eighth consecutive year as a result of the resort's continued commitment to upholding environmentally responsible hotel operations.

Members of Bucuti's management team celebrated the news with ISO auditor Mr. Peter Hackett (L to R) Mr. Pete Hackett, Robert Habes, Toine Schoofs, Dany Lopez Henriquez, Nashette Wouters, Jelitza Loopstok, Frank Briezen, Deborah Dintelman, Agnes de Palm, Kimberly de Cuba, Romy Ras, Ignacio Ortiz, Fernando Caro. □



Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Tuesday, September 21, 2010



Clint Bowyer hoists the trophy in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H., Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010.

Associated Press

Bowyer brings a breath of fresh air to NASCAR

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — There's a swagger and style about Clint Bowyer that should put him high on the list of NASCAR's most likable drivers.

But with just three Sprint Cup wins on his resume, he hasn't put up the performances needed to capture widespread attention. That could be on the verge of changing.

Bowyer's win Sunday in the opening round of the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship was a breath of fresh air to a NASCAR fan base weary of Jimmie Johnson's four-year reign of dominance. A blue-collar racer who rose through the ranks of Midwest short track racing, Bowyer so far has resisted being molded into a polished corporate pitchman. So as Bowyer celebrated his victory with his Richard Childress Racing crew, vice president of competition Mike Dillon pointed out to the boss just how big the win could be for the entire sport.

"He came over to me in the winner's circle and said, 'This is the best thing for NASCAR."

Continued on Page B8

Under investigation, Lance Armstrong stays in public eye

JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — While prosecutors examine his past as part of a federal investigation into drug use in pro cycling, Lance Armstrong is sticking to a relentless public schedule of charity bike rides, speeches, endorsements and meetings with policy groups.

The seven-time Tour de France winner is doing anything but hiding.

And that, public relations experts say, is

the way to stay popular — or at least, limit the damage to his reputation — even as prosecutors present evidence to a grand jury.

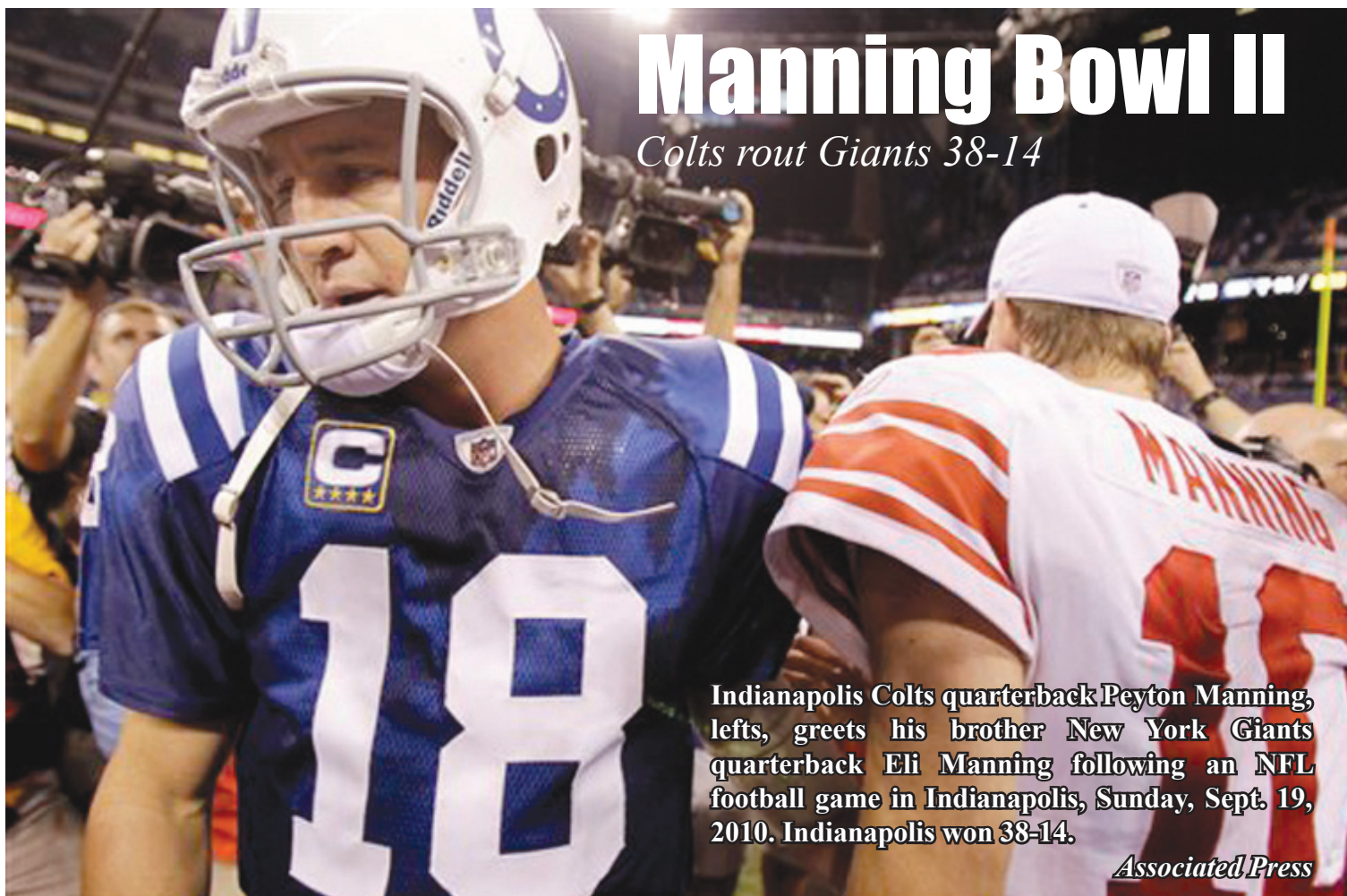
"It's all the right moves. Other athletes could learn from him" said Gene Grabowski, who guides high-profile figures through public relations crises as a senior vice president with Washington-based Levick Strategic Communications.

Continued on Page B7



In this Sept. 24, 2008 file photo, cyclist Lance Armstrong holds a news conference during the Clinton Global Initiative annual meeting in New York.

Associated Press



Manning Bowl II

Colts rout Giants 38-14

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, left, greets his brother New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning following an NFL football game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010. Indianapolis won 38-14.

Associated Press

NFL Roundup

Favre has 4 TO's in loss to Dolphins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Brett Favre had his worst game for the Vikings, throwing three interceptions and losing a fumble as the Miami Dolphins held out Adrian Peterson on fourth-and-goal to preserve a 14-10 victory over Minnesota on Sunday.

Koa Misi recovered Favre's fumble in the end zone for a touchdown and Brian Hartline scored on a 5-yard pass from Chad Henne to keep the Dolphins (2-0) undefeated.

The 40-year-old Favre was 19 of 28 for 197 yards. He threw

two interceptions at home all of last season, but topped that total in the home opener.

Peterson rushed for 145 yards and a touchdown for the Vikings (0-2), who forced two fumbles in a mistake-filled game.

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Mark Sanchez threw a career-high three touchdown passes as the Jets held off New England despite losing Darrelle Revis.

Continued on Next Page

NFL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B1

Sanchez completed a career-high 21 passes on 30 attempts for 220 yards and connected with Braylon Edwards, Jericho Cotchery and Dustin Keller for scores.

Eagles 35, Lions 32

At Detroit, Michael Vick's first start in four years was a winning one, with the quarterback throwing two touchdown passes in the first half before Philadelphia held off a late rally.

LeSean McCoy gave the Eagles (1-1) an 18-point lead with his third score with 6:17 left. The Lions (0-2) pulled within three points and recovered an onside kick with 1:50 left, but turned the ball over on downs without gaining a yard.

Vick, starting for Kevin Kolb (concussion), missed two seasons while serving an 18-month sentence for his role in a dogfighting operation and played sparingly last year. He hit 21 of 34 passes for 284 yards, ran for 37 yards.

Texans 30, Redskins 27 OT

At Landover, Maryland, Neil Rackers kicked a 35-yard field goal with 3:24 left in overtime, and Matt Schaub passed for a franchise-record 497 yards as Houston won again.

Schaub completed 38 of 52 passes with three touchdowns and one interception for the Texans, who have won their first two games of the season for only the second time in team history.

Colts 38, Giants 14

At Indianapolis, Peyton Manning threw for three touchdowns to easily outplay younger brother Eli as Indianapolis routed the New York.

In the second NFL meeting of siblings as starting quarterbacks, Peyton Manning got lots of help from his running game and the Colts defense. Joseph Addai rushed for 92 yards, Donald Brown added 69 and Indianapolis (1-1) forced Eli Manning to fumble twice, resulting in 14 points.

Bears 27, Cowboys 20

At Arlington, Texas, Jay Cutler threw three touchdown passes to lead Chicago to its first win-win start since its Super Bowl season in 2006.

Dallas blew a chance to level the game at 20-all when David Buehler badly missed a 44-yard field goal with 7:23 left. Chicago immediately drove for a lead-extending touchdown. Buehler made a 48-yarder with 1:17 left, but



Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis is stopped short of the goal line by Houston Texans linebacker DeMeco Ryans during the first half of an NFL football game in Landover, Md., on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010. Portis scored on the next play.

Associated Press

the Bears caught an onside kick.

Steelers 19, Titans 11

At Nashville, Tennessee, Antonio Brown scored from an 89-yard kickoff return to open the game as Pittsburgh

forced seven turnovers.

Dennis Dixon hurt his left knee and was replaced by Charlie Batch, but the Steelers (2-0) swarmed the Titans (1-1) and came up with four sacks and forced the most turnovers



In this Sept. 3, 2009, photo, Denver Broncos wide receiver Kenny McKinley runs during a preseason NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals in Denver. The Arapahoe County Sheriff says McKinley has been found dead in his Centennial, Colo., home Monday, Sept. 20, 2010. Sheriff Grayson Robinson says detectives are investigating the death.

Associated Press

Sheriff: Broncos WR Kenny McKinley found dead

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Denver Broncos wide receiver Kenny McKinley was found dead in his home Monday, authorities said. Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson said authorities were called to McKinley's home in Centennial and found his body. Robinson said he couldn't provide any more details because detectives were investigating and in the process of notifying relatives. "Everyone with the Broncos is shocked and saddened by the loss of Kenny McKinley," team owner Pat Bowlen said in a statement. "He was part of the Broncos' family and will be greatly missed by our organization. My most heartfelt condolences go out to Kenny's family and friends."

The Broncos said coach Josh McDaniels would meet with the media on Tuesday.

In a statement, McDaniels said:

"Kenny had a promising future on the football field, but more importantly, he was a great teammate whose smile and personality could light up the room. This is a tragic loss for our football team, and his family is in all of our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time."

McKinley was a second-year pro who was on the team's injured reserve list with a leg injury. He played in eight games as a rookie in 2009 with seven kick returns for 158 yards.

McKinley was a fifth-round draft choice out of South Carolina in 2009. He attended South Cobb High School in Austell, Ga.

McKinley remains South Carolina's all-time leading receiver with 207 catches for 2,781 yards. He came back to the school earlier this month, watched the Gamecocks beat Georgia 17-6 and visited with his college coach, Steve Spurrier. □

by Tennessee since 2000.

Packers 34, Bills 7

At Green Bay, Clay Matthews' three sacks led a dominant defense, while Aaron Rodgers threw for two TDs and scrambled for another for the Packers.

Rodgers threw for 255 yards, with touchdowns to Donald Driver and James Jones. He also ran 9 yards for a score.

Chiefs 16, Browns 14

At Cleveland, Brandon Flowers returned an interception for a touchdown and Ryan Succop kicked three field goals as Kansas City converted a late fourth-down gamble by coach Todd Haley for the win.

Jerome Harrison, who ran for 286 yards against the Chiefs last year, was held to 33 yards on 16 carries.

Falcons 41, Cardinals 7

At Atlanta, Matt Ryan matched a career high with three touchdown passes, and third-string running back Jason Snelling rushed for 129 yards and scored three times for Atlanta.

Snelling took over after the top two backs, Michael Turner and Jerious Norwood, went out with injuries. The replacement carried 24 times for 129 yards, including a pair of touchdowns. He also hauled in a 19-yard touchdown pass from Ryan.

Bengals 15, Ravens 10

At Cincinnati, Mike Nugent kicked a career-high five field goals, two of them in the closing minutes, as the Bengals held on to win.

Cincinnati (1-1) won the division last season with a 6-0 record. New kicker extended the Bengals' streak of division wins to a club-record eight straight.

In other NFL games it was Chicago 27, Dallas 20; Atlanta 41, Arizona 7; Green Bay 34, Buffalo 7; Philadelphia 35, Detroit 32; Pittsburgh 19, Tennessee 11; Cincinnati 15, Baltimore 10; Kansas City 16, Cleveland 14; Tampa Bay 20, Carolina 7; Miami 14, Minnesota 10; Denver 31, Seattle 14; Oakland 16, St. Louis 14; Houston 30, Washington 27, OT; San Diego 38, Jacksonville 13; N.Y. Jets 28, New England 14; and Indianapolis 38, N.Y. Giants 14. □

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Torre visits new Yankee Stadium for the first time

By RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Joe Torre walked into new Yankee Stadium for the first time, signed the clubhouse wall alongside other pinstriped greats and ended his estrangement from Brian Cashman with an embrace.

In death, George Steinbrenner had brought them back together.

Torre had not been to the Yankees' home since his bitter departure as manager after the 2007 season, the next-to-last season of old Yankee Stadium. After 12 seasons and four World Series titles, he walked away after he was offered only a one-year contract.

"Yeah, I was hurt," he said at a news conference Monday before the unveiling of Steinbrenner's monument. "And yet if you try to be rational about it, I think you had two parties not knowing how to say goodbye. And that's what it turned out to be — the Yankees feeling I'd been here this long, didn't want me to manage, and how do you approach that?"

He announced Friday he would retire from the Los Angeles Dodgers after three seasons as their manager, and then received an invitation from Yankees chief operating office Lonn Trost to attend the ceremony. With the Dodgers off, Torre accepted and came to New York with former Yankees captain Don Mattingly, who will succeed him as the Los Angeles manager.

Torre said he was stressed during his final three years as Yankees manager. After leading the team to World Series titles in 1996 and from 1998-00, his final seven seasons were unsuccessful. Now his anger at the Yankees is almost gone.

"It gradually, you know, abated pretty much," he said, wearing his 1996 World Series ring. "It's much different than then. I'm not saying I would want to change anything, because you tell people how you feel at the time you feel it."

He had not spoken with Cashman since January 2009, just before the publication of a book that the general manager felt spilled clubhouse secrets. After Cashman walked into the interview room and embraced Torre, the two retreated to the clubhouse for a discussion.

"I think we've agreed to just put it behind us," Cashman said. "We had a good constructive meeting. We've taken the steps to start to repair whatever got broke."

Cashman said the chilly distance between the two contrasted with their warm working relationship during Torre's dozen seasons, of

which Cashman was general manager for the final decade.

"It's just not healthy. It's time to just turn the page and move on," Cashman said. "Whatever happened on that side is a small sample compared to the huge sample of all the good stuff that took place."

Mattingly said he felt no bitterness when the Yankees bypassed him to hire Joe Girardi as Torre's successor. Mattingly said he left as New York's bench coach because he felt Girardi's tenure would have been questioned during each small losing streak had he stayed.

"I didn't think it was fair to him," Mattingly said. "I love coming back to New York." Torre wouldn't rule out taking another managing job — if the Mets fire Jerry Manuel, Torre would be linked to the job he held from 1977-81.

"I really don't anticipate I'm going to manage," he said. But Torre won't rule it out.

"When the season's over, if the phone rings, and if it rings a number of times, I'm just curious what's out there," he said. "If somebody calls me and it excites me, fine. And, you know, you certainly have



Los Angeles Dodgers bench coach Don Mattingly, left, and Dodgers manager Joe Torre, right, speak to reporters during a news conference at Yankee Stadium in New York, Monday, Sept. 20, 2010. The pair are at Yankee Stadium for the dedication of a monument to the late Yankees principal owner George Steinbrenner.

Associated Press

to listen to it. But I'm curious if there's anything, because I want to stay connected with baseball in some way."

Torre still is associated more with the Yankees than the Dodgers. He's asked to sign more Yankees gear than

Dodgers memorabilia.

And even though the new \$1.6 billion ballpark wasn't his home, he identifies with it.

"I didn't work on that field, but it's Yankee Stadium," Torre said. "It's the pinstripes. It's all the stuff." □

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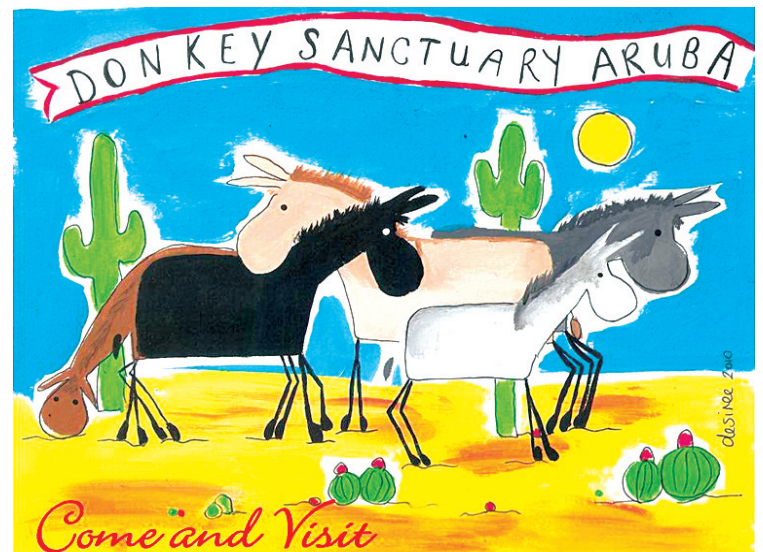
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NL Roundup

Guillen hits grand slam in Giants' 9-2 win.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Jose Guillen hit a grand slam and drove in six runs, and Barry Zito won for the first time in two months as the San Francisco Giants regained first place in the National League West with a 9-2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday.

After a loss Saturday to fall behind San Diego in the West, the Giants moved a ½-game up on the Padres, who lost to St. Louis 4-1. Zito (9-13) pitched six solid innings to end a career-worst nine-game losing streak and record a victory for the first time since July 16.

Ryan Braun hit a two-run homer for the Brewers, who were officially eliminated from the NL Central division race.

Braun also robbed Cody Ross of a home run in the first inning, reaching over the fence to pull back his drive.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 6, 11 innings

At Los Angeles, A.J. Ellis lined an RBI single over a drawn-in infield in the 11th inning after Matt Kemp doubled home the tying run in the ninth to help Los Angeles record its biggest comeback win of the season.

George Sherrill (2-2) relieved demoted Dodgers closer Jonathan Broxton with the bases loaded and two out in the 11th, and struck out NL batting leader Carlos Gonzalez.

The Dodgers got a break in the bottom half when Rafael Furcal was ruled safe at first by umpire Jim Reynolds on a potential double-play grounder to second base.

Kemp's single against Manny Delcarmen (0-2) sent Furcal to third, and Andre Ethier was



San Francisco Giants' Jose Guillen hits a bases-loaded two-RBI single against the Milwaukee Brewers in the fifth inning of a baseball game on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010, in San Francisco. The Giants won 9-2.

intentionally walked before Ellis lined a 3-2 pitch just over the outstretched glove of leaping shortstop Troy Tulowitzki.

Kemp and Andre Ethier homered for Los Angeles, the 23rd of the season for both. The Dodgers trailed 6-1 after two innings.

Phillies 7, Nationals 6

At Philadelphia, Jayson Werth hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning after Ryan Howard had a two-run single to lift Philadelphia past Washington for its seventh straight win.

Werth's homer off Drew Storen (3-4) helped the Phillies maintain their three-game lead in the NL East over the Atlanta Braves. The teams begin a three-game series in Philadelphia on Monday night.

Vance Worley (1-1) pitched an inning for the win.

Braves 6, Mets 3

At New York, Derrek Lee delivered the huge hit the Braves desperately needed

from him, launching a go-ahead grand slam in the seventh inning that sent Atlanta to a three-game sweep.

Lee greeted reliever Manny Acosta with his 11th career slam.

Derek Lowe (14-12) limited the Mets to David Wright's two-run homer over six innings, and the Braves' bullpen finished out the victory. Atlanta has won four straight road games after struggling away from Turner Field all year.

Cardinals 4, Padres 1

At St. Louis, Adam Wainwright earned his 19th win with a dominant performance and Colby Rasmus homered and scored twice to help St. Louis take three of four from San Diego.

Jon Garland (14-12) allowed four runs in seven innings for the Padres, who have lost 12 of their last 13 in St. Louis. San Diego dropped to second in the NL West,

Associated Press
a half-game behind San Francisco.

Wainwright (19-11) won for just the second time in seven starts and matched his victory total from last season, allowing a run and five hits in eight innings.

Adrian Gonzalez hit an RBI single in the eighth for San Diego.

Astros 4, Reds 3

At Houston, Brett Myers pitched seven scoreless innings and Humberto Quintero drove in two runs as Houston held off a late rally to win a series against Cincinnati.

Rookie Chris Johnson had a solo home run in the seventh inning to help the Astros take two of three games from the Reds. With St. Louis' 4-1 win over San Diego, Cincinnati's magic number for winning the division title remained eight.

Myers (13-7) extended his streak of consecutive starts of six or more innings to

begin a season to 31. It is the longest such streak since Curt Schilling did it in his first 35 starts in 2002.

Pirates 4, Giants 3

At Pittsburgh, Neil Walker hit a two-run homer in Pittsburgh's three-run eighth inning as the Pirates completed a three-game sweep of San Francisco.

Andrew McCutchen hit a leadoff drive in the first and finished with two hits for Pittsburgh, which has the worst record in baseball but has won five of its last six home games.

Jose Tabata hit a run-scoring fielder's choice to cut Arizona's lead to 3-1 before Walker connected against Aaron Heilman (5-8), hitting a drive to center for his 12th homer.

Cubs 13, Marlins 3

At Miami, Wellington Castillo homered and drove in three runs to help Chicago beat Florida despite losing rookie outfielder Tyler Colvin to a scary injury.

Colvin was standing on third base in the second inning when part of Castillo's bat punctured his chest. Colvin scored on Castillo's double, but was replaced in the field in the bottom half and taken to a hospital.

A Cubs spokesman said Colvin was in stable condition and there was minimal external bleeding. The Marlins issued 12 walks, tying a franchise record for a nine-inning game set Oct. 5, 2001, against Atlanta.

In other NL games it was Atlanta 6, N.Y. Mets 3; Chicago Cubs 13, Florida 3;

Pittsburgh 4, Arizona 3; Philadelphia 7, Washington 6; Houston 4, Cincinnati 3; St. Louis 4, San Diego 1; San Francisco 9, Milwaukee 2; and L.A. Dodgers 7, Colorado 6, 11 innings. □

AL Roundup

Tigers beat White Sox 9-7 in 11

CHICAGO (AP) — Gerald Laird hit a tiebreaking single in the 11th inning and escaped with a 9-7 victory over the Chicago White Sox Sunday night when Manny Ramirez was caught looking at strike three with bases loaded for the final out.

Jim Leyland became the 18th manager to work 3,000 games. He watched the Tigers score six in the seventh to take a 7-3 lead only to have the bullpen give it away in the ninth and barely escape at the finish.

The winning rally started when Brandon Inge struck out on a wild pitch from Sergio Santos and advanced all the way to third when catcher A.J. Pierzynski's low throw to first bounced to the tarp along the right-field line. Brennan Boesch was intentionally walked before Laird delivered the go-ahead single to left, his second hit.

Austin Jackson then followed with a double to left, driving in Boesch to make it 9-7, and a bullpen that gave away a four-run lead in the ninth finally finished it in the bottom half. Alexei Ramirez had led off the 11th against Eddie Bonine with a single and Alex Rios walked. Paul Konerko nearly won it, just missing a three-run homer when his shot down the left-field line landed a few feet foul before he struck out looking on a 3-2 pitch.

The Tigers then brought in Daniel Schlereth, who got A.J. Pierzynski to ground into a force before walking Carlos Quentin to load the bases.

That brought up Manny Ramirez, who looked at a 2-2 breaking ball for the third strike, giving Schlereth his first career save and the Tigers the weekend sweep.

Orioles 4, Yankees 3

At Baltimore, Luke Scott leveled the game with a ninth-inning homer off Mariano Rivera, then scored the winning run in the 11th for the Orioles.

Yankees starter Andy Pettitte returned from a two-month stay on the disabled list to allow one run and three hits in six innings. The left-hander, who had been sidelined

since July 18 with a strained left groin, retired his final 11 batters.

Pettitte left with New York up 3-1. Rivera's fourth blown save deprived him of the victory, but the veteran starter is back in time to contribute to the Yankees' push to win the American League East.

New York has a half-game lead over Tampa Bay, which opens a four-game series at Yankee Stadium on Monday night, when the Yankees will honor late owner George Steinbrenner in Monument Park.

Angels 6, Rays 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Peter Bourjos broke a tie with a three-run homer and Scott Kazmir won for the first time in six weeks as Los Angeles beat Tampa Bay.

Bourjos connected on a full-count pitch from Jeff Niemann (10-7) with two outs in the fourth, giving the Angels a 4-1 lead. Both baserunners — Howie Kendrick and Hank Conger — reached on walks. Kazmir (9-14) earned his first win since Aug. 7, allowing one run and six hits over five innings against his former team. He was 1-9 in his previous 12 starts.

Bobby Abreu added a pair of solo homers for the Angels, who took two of three from Tampa Bay. It was the Rays' first series loss at home since

dropping two of three to Arizona from June 25-27.

Athletics 6, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Mark Ellis had three hits, including a two-run homer as 30-year-old rookie Bobby Cramer won his second consecutive start in Oakland's victory over Minnesota.

The AL Central-leading Twins lost reigning AL MVP Joe Mauer to a balky left knee late in the game. He was replaced at catcher by Jose Morales in the seventh inning.

Cramer (2-0) was working on a three-hitter before Michael Cuddyer and Jim Thome homered in the sixth.

Ellis and Akinori Iwamura each scored twice and drove in a pair of runs against Francisco Liriano (14-8), who lost for the first time since July 9 at Detroit. The lefty is 8-1 with a 2.84 ERA in his last 12 starts.

Twins manager Ron Gardenhire was ejected in the fourth after Thome hit into a bizarre double play.

Mariners 2, Rangers 1

At Seattle, Doug Fister tossed seven impressive innings, outpitching Tommy Hunter to help Seattle beat AL West-leading Texas.

Ryan Langerhans hit a leadoff triple in the seventh and scored on a single by Josh Wilson, giving the Mariners the lead and chasing Hunter (12-4).



Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland, left, congratulates closer Daniel Schlereth after the Tigers defeated the Chicago White Sox 9-7 in a baseball game in Chicago, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010.

Texas' magic number remained six for clinching its first division title since 1999. The Rangers have a nine-game lead over Oakland.

Langerhans went 2 for 3 and drew a 12-pitch walk from Hunter in his first start in a week.

Nelson Cruz homered for the Rangers.

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 0

At Boston, Jon Lester pitched seven sharp innings and J.D. Drew homered in a five-run fifth as Boston avoided a three-game sweep by beating Toronto.

The Blue Jays were mathematically eliminated from the playoff race with the loss.

Victor Martinez also homered for the Red Sox.

Lester (18-8) won his fifth

straight start and became the first Red Sox lefty to win 18 games since Bruce Hurst in 1988. Lester pitched out of bases-loaded jams in the third and fifth, allowing four hits and four walks in all.

Royals 6, Indians 4

At Kansas City, Missouri, Luke Hochevar recovered from a shaky start to earn his first win since May 26 and Yuniesky Betancourt stole home to lead Kansas City over Cleveland.

In other AL games it was Baltimore 4, N.Y. Yankees 3, 11 innings; Boston 6, Toronto 0; L.A. Angels 6, Tampa Bay 3; Kansas City 6, Cleveland 4; Oakland 6, Minnesota 2; Seattle 2, Texas 1; and Detroit 9, Chicago White Sox 7, 11 innings □



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Michigan St moves in, Arizona moves up AP poll

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer

(AP)—Michigan State moved into The Associated Press college football poll after its thrilling victory against Notre Dame, while No. 14 Arizona received its best regular-season ranking in 12 years after the Wildcats knocked off Iowa.

There was no movement at the top of the rankings Sunday. The top five of Alabama, Ohio State, Boise State, TCU and Oregon was unchanged from last week.

The Crimson Tide received 53 first-place votes, Ohio State got five and Boise State and Texas each received one.

The 25th-ranked Spartans (3-0) used a faked field goal in

overtime to beat the Fighting Irish 34-31 and move into the AP Top 25 for the first time since 2008, when coach Mark Dantonio had Michigan State in the rankings for much of the second half of the season.

On Sunday, the school announced Dantonio had a mild heart attack after the Notre Dame game. The 54-year-old was hospitalized Sunday and expected to make a full recovery after undergoing surgery to put a stent in a blocked blood vessel. He is expected to remain in the hospital for at least a few more days and it is unknown how long he will be away from the team.

"This is a time for Spartan Nation to rally around Coach



Michigan State players, including Kyle Elsworth (41) and Joe Boisture (6), celebrate following a 34-31 overtime win in an NCAA college football game against Notre Dame, Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010, in East Lansing, Mich.

Associated Press

D and the football program," athletic director Mark Hollis said. "We all look forward to his return to the sidelines." Offensive coordinator Don Treadwell will replace Dantonio during the head coach's absence. Dantonio won't be on the sidelines when the Spartans play Northern Colorado on Saturday. Arizona is coming off one of its biggest wins in recent seasons, 34-27 against No. 9 Iowa.

The Wildcats were ranked for a few weeks last season, but before that it had been since 2000 that they last made the Top 25. The last time they were ranked this highly in the regular season was 1998. Arizona finished that season No. 4 in the nation and was in the top 10 for the final six weeks of the season. The Wildcats started the next season ranked No. 4 as well, lost their opening game and quickly fell out of the rankings

all together. Iowa dropped nine spot to No. 18 after its first loss. Nebraska moved up two spots to No. 6 after dominating at Washington, 56-21. The Cornhuskers are followed by Big 12 rivals Texas and Oklahoma. Florida is No. 9 and Arkansas moved into the top 10 heading into its biggest home game in decades. The Razorbacks host Alabama on Saturday in Fayetteville. □



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PIRANHA 3D	daily: 6:45 - 9:00 matinee: 11:15 late show: 11:45	RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE 3D	daily: 7:15 - 9:30 matinee: 12:00 late show: 11:00
CATS & DOGS GALORE 3D	daily: 4:30 matinee: 12:15 - 2:30 late show: 11:00	THE OTHER GUYS	daily: 12:00 - 2:30 matinee: 12:00 - 2:30 late show: 11:00
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ARMSTRONG

Continued from Page B1

Armstrong won the Tour de France seven times after fighting back from testicular cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain. Since returning from this year's race, which he says will be his last, he has kept his fight against the disease at the forefront of his public appearances.

Armstrong was scheduled to be in San Francisco on Monday to visit a hospital with Mayor Gavin Newsome. When a federal grand jury considering the investigation meets in Los Angeles on Wednesday, he'll be in New York City for the Clinton Global Initiative where he's headlining a panel on cancer in the developing world. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama are scheduled to be at the Clinton event later in the week.

Meantime, Armstrong is constantly updating his 2.65 million followers on Twitter with his musings on life, racing and music.

"We call it 'brazening it out.' You act as if there's nothing wrong," said George Merlis, founder of Experience Media Consulting Group. "All of these are laudable if he's doing it for the right reason, such as fighting cancer."

Armstrong insists there is, indeed, nothing wrong. He has always denied doping allegations that have dogged him for years. Spokesman Mark Fabiani said there's no reason for him to back off now.

"This tax-money-wasting fishing expedition — which continues to drag up nothing but old news — was started on the word of the disgraced Floyd Landis, so there is no reason why it would distract Lance Armstrong from the vigorous work he has always done on behalf of his foundation, his sport, and his wide range of business partners," Fabiani said.

In fact, Armstrong's highly public schedule is nothing new.

When he first retired from cycling in 2005, he made regular appearances around the country for charity and cancer-awareness programs.

He also entered the political world. In 2007, Armstrong

successfully lobbied state lawmakers to pass a \$3 billion cancer research initiative. He also co-hosted televised cancer forums with several candidates for president.

Today, Armstrong still has a dedicated following, the so-called Livestrong Army enchanted by his work fighting cancer and his success on the bike. Just this weekend, a 6-year-old boy in Corpus Christi made local news by raising \$150 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation selling lemonade. And a "Support for Lance" website is appealing to the "millions of Lance Armstrong fans all over the world — it's time that this international hero gets some support when he needs it most!" (The Armstrong camp says the cyclist is not behind the website and has not been contacted by the site's operators.)

Armstrong's corporate sponsors — including Nike, RadioShack Corp., 24-hour fitness and Trek bikes — have stuck with him. He recently shot a new commercial for Michelob Ultra.

Yet analysts are divided over whether Armstrong's image is taking a hit because of the doping investigation.

Armstrong ranked about average in popularity among sports figures, according to a survey conducted by the Q Scores Co. in August and September.

"There's no indication that his negative recognition has grown at an alarming rate, unlike other athletes like Tiger Woods, where the negatives went through the roof. He's nowhere near that kind of disaster," Schafer said.

But Zeta Interactive, a marketing firm that tracks looks online to see how people are being viewed, found Armstrong has fallen far from his perch as one of the most popular athletes the agency has ever tracked.

Zeta measured Armstrong at 92 percent popularity in 2008, and he was at 86 percent in July before the start of his final Tour de France. That number dropped to 51 percent in August when the federal investigation ramped up and has bumped only slightly to 55 percent in recent weeks.

"He's flirting with 50-50," said Zeta Interactive CEO

Al DiGuido. "For someone trying to build themselves as a brand, that's not a good place to be."

Grabowski thinks the decision to pursue Armstrong in court may depend, at least to some degree, on how well he's able to maintain his public persona as a legitimate Tour champion and cancer fighter.

"There's an old saying in Washington: You never kick a man when he's up. When someone's popular and you take him on, you're going to lose," Grabowski said.

Merlis isn't so sure. □



This Aug. 22, 2010, file photo shows cyclist Lance Armstrong greeting fellow riders prior to the start of his Livestrong Challenge 10K ride for cancer, in Blue Bell, Pa.

Associated Press

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Only qualified applicants will be acknowledged.



Clint Bowyer smiles as he holds a lobster in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H., Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010.

NASCAR

Continued from Page B1

We need somebody like Clint Bowyer winning races and running for this championship,” team owner Richard Childress recalled. “He came from the short tracks, the dirt tracks. He’s worked and he’s earned his way to where he is today. He’s

Associated Press

very fan friendly. The fans love him.

“It’s what I think NASCAR needs, a new type of hero.” It’s just one round into the 10-race Chase, but NASCAR had to have been pleased with Sunday’s show.

The race was full of twists and turns for the championship contenders, who all insisted

the championship couldn’t be won at New Hampshire but it most certainly could be lost. A poor finish in the opener could derail the title hopes of an entire team, and a decent day, well, that could hurdle a driver into the heart of the battle.

It’s what happened to Bowyer, who slid into the 12-driver field as the final seed. Then his win jettisoned him up to second in the standings, just 35 points back of leader Denny Hamlin. He had a similar fate in 2007, when he grabbed his first career victory in the Chase opener and rode the momentum to a career-best third-place finish in the standings.

Now, in a season of resurgence for an RCR team that struggled to keep pace with NASCAR’s heavyweights last year, Bowyer could make a similar run.

“I really feel like, why not us?” Bowyer crew chief Shane Wilson said. “Jimmie Johnson is good, but he’s won four in a row. The last four or five weeks, we’ve been right there

with him. He’s not that much better than us. We can do it, and why not us?”

Several teams had the same thoughts as they left New Hampshire stacked in a wide-open field for the championship. Johnson had an uncharacteristically bad day, surviving a spin only to fall victim to a loose wheel. He had to pit under green, couldn’t catch a caution and finished 25th, lowest among the Chase drivers. Although he dropped to seventh in the standings, all may not be lost for the champion: Since the Chase began in 2004, the champion has finished sixth or better at New Hampshire every year but once, in 2006, when Johnson finished 39th but rallied to win the first of his four titles.

He heads to Dover this weekend thinking about another rally, but Tony Stewart may not have the same confidence.

Stewart took the lead from Bowyer late in Sunday’s race, but as both drivers tried to stretch their final tank of gas

a daunting 92 laps, Stewart failed to conserve enough fuel to make it to the finish.

Instead of winning, he finished 24th and dropped to 11th in the standings.

Now he’s got to hope everyone in front of him has at least one slip over the remaining nine races, and after watching some of the comebacks Sunday, it may not happen for Stewart.

Take Hamlin, for example. He was running fourth when he was spun by Carl Edwards and fell to 22nd after a quick pit stop for repairs. Livid over the radio, he calmed down enough to slowly work his way back through the field.

Had the race gone just one more lap, he likely would have beat Bowyer. Instead, he settled for second and maintained his lead in the standings.

Then there was Kevin Harvick, the points leader most of the regular season and Bowyer’s teammate at RCR. A poor first pit stop put him in the hole, and it didn’t seem to get much better over the next several trips down pit road. □



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FDA to consider approval of modified salmon

By MARY CLARE

JALONICK,

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal food regulators pondered Monday whether to say, for the first time, that it's OK to market a genetically engineered animal as safe for people to eat. The Food and Drug Administration is holding two days of hearings on a request to market genetically modified salmon. Ron Stotish, CEO of AquaBounty, the Massachusetts company that made the marketing request, said at the meeting Monday that his company's fish product is safe and environmentally sustainable. Critics, however, call the modified salmon "frankenfish" that could cause allergies in humans and the eventual decimation of the wild salmon population. An FDA advisory committee is reviewing the science of the genetically engineered fish this week and hearing such criticisms as the agency ponders approval.

The FDA has already said that the salmon, which grows twice as fast as its conventional "sisters," is as safe to eat as the traditional variety.

Whether the public will have an appetite for it is another matter. Genetic engineering is already widely used for crops, but the government until now has not considered allowing the consumption of modified animals. Although the potential benefits — and profits — are huge, many individuals have qualms about manipulating the genetic code of other living creatures.

Part of the two-day hearing will focus on labeling of the fish. It is possible that if the modified salmon is approved, consumers would not even know they were eating it. Current FDA regulations only require modified foods to be

labeled as such if the food is substantially different than the conventional version, and the agency has said that the modified salmon is essentially the same as the Atlantic salmon.

Approval of the salmon would open the door for a variety of other genetically engineered animals, including an environmentally friendly pig that is being developed in Canada or cattle that are resistant to mad cow disease.

"For future applications out there the sky's the limit," said David Edwards of the Biotechnology Industry Association. "If you can imagine it, scientists can try to do it." AquaBounty says it would be the first in the world to market genetically engineered fish. The company submitted its first application for FDA approval in 1995, but the agency did not decide until two years ago to consider applications for genetically engineered animals — a move seen as a breakthrough by the biotechnology industry.

Genetically engineered — or GE — animals are not clones, which the FDA has already said are safe to eat. Clones are copies of an animal. With GE animals, their DNA has been altered to produce a desirable characteristic.

In the case of the salmon, AquaBounty has added a growth hormone from a Chinook salmon that allows the fish to produce their growth hormone all year long. The engineers were able to keep the hormone active by using another gene from an eel-like fish called an ocean pout that acts like an on switch for the hormone, according to the company. Conventional salmon only produce the growth hormone some of the time.

In documents released ahead

of the hearing, the FDA said there were no biologically relevant differences between the engineered salmon and conventional salmon, and there is a reasonable certainty of no harm from its consumption. FDA scientists speaking Monday said there are very few differences between the modified and conventional fish. Critics have two main concerns: The safety of the food to humans and the salmon's effect on the environment. □



This undated handout photo provided by AquaBounty Technologies shows two same-age salmon, a genetically modified salmon, rear, and a non-genetically modified salmon, foreground. The Food and Drug Administration pondered Monday whether to say, for the first time, that it's OK to market a genetically engineered animal as safe for people to eat.

(AP Photo/AquaBounty Technologies)

Alzheimer's brain tangles offer clue to worsening

By LAURAN NEERGAARD,

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — That sticky gunk coating Alzheimer's patients' brains gets all the notoriety, but another culprit is gaining renewed attention: Protein tangles that clog brain cells and just might determine how fast patients go downhill.

Nobody knows what causes Alzheimer's, although the disease's hallmark plaque — that gooey stuff called beta-amyloid — is the main suspect. Yet repeated attempts at anti-amyloid treatments have failed, the latest disappointment last month when Eli Lilly & Co. abandoned an experimental drug that wound up doing harm, not good.

Now comes a different clue: A second protein called tau seems to signal how aggressive the mind-robbing disease will be. Researchers discovered that patients with mild Alzheimer's and high levels of tau also harbored a genetic alteration that in turn predicted they would worsen faster.

That suggests if scientists could figure out how to lower tau levels, it might slow dementia, says senior researcher Alison Goate of Washington University in St. Louis. More than 5 million Americans are estimated to be living with Alzheimer's, as many as half in the disease's early stages. The only available medications temporarily ease symptoms but don't slow the disease.

How quickly a loved one will deteriorate is a big question for families struggling to plan for care — and Goate's work is a first

step at identifying genetic markers to help predict how long someone may function independently and when they might require a nursing home.

Don't look for a genetic test for tau any time soon. This is first-step research that needs to be validated by other laboratories, and Goate says it's likely just one genetic marker among many to be discovered.

Already, a handful of drug companies are focusing on the protein. Singapore-based TauRx Therapeutics tells The Associated Press it has begun planning an advanced research trial of its experimental anti-tau drug known as LMTX. It's a second-generation version of a drug named Rember that generated excitement in early-stage testing a few years ago.

And the genetic finding promises to increase interest.

"We've been saying for years, 'Hedge your bets guys, you don't know what's going to pay off,'" says Dr. John Trojanowski of the University of Pennsylvania, which this spring began collaborating with drugmaker AstraZeneca to hunt anti-tau compounds.

The work opens an important window into the neurobiology of Alzheimer's, but doesn't negate the long-standing focus on amyloid plaque, cautions dementia specialist Dr. Paul Aisen of the University of California, San Diego.

"Both amyloid and tau are clearly important, and both represent plausible areas for drug development," Aisen says. □

Fashion elite remembers McQueen in London service



British supermodel Kate Moss after the memorial service for Alexander McQueen at St Paul's Cathedral in London, Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, which took place during London Fashion Week.

By GREGORY KATZ

LONDON — They came in sky-high heels and huge dark sunglasses and even managed to flash a little cleavage from their deep black mourning outfits. The world's fashion elite gathered beneath the magnificent dome of St. Paul's Cathedral Monday to celebrate the legacy of Alexander McQueen, the troubled British designer who took his own life in early February. The crowd included a Who's Who of fashion central: American Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour, models Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell, designer Stella McCartney, "Sex and the City" star Sarah Jessica Parker, and dozens of other McQueen devotees. The event brought London Fashion Week to a halt — no one wanted to show a collection while the giants of the industry were marking the passing of McQueen, an iconoclast who was Britain's most celebrated, controversial and outrageous designer. Those who could wore McQueen outfits, including

worked all night, falling asleep with his dog on a couch. Wintour and others hinted at his dark side. She spoke of his sometimes "savage tongue" and the discomfort he felt with the social niceties required by the fashion world. "We always forgave Alexander," she said after describing how McQueen failed to show up for his first-ever American Vogue photo shoot and then told editors there that he couldn't care less about the magazine — one of the fashion industry's most influential publications. She said that only later did she find out that McQueen had not come to the photo shoot because he was receiving unemployment benefits and didn't want to jeopardize his payments by appearing to be financially successful in the magazine. Wintour said McQueen grew up in the hardscrabble East End of London not far from St. Paul's and never strayed far from his beloved London roots. "As a child he loved nothing more than sitting on the roof top and watching birds fly by," she said. "His final collection was a battle between dark and light. His was an 18-year career of harnessing his dreams and demons. But he has left us with an exceptional legacy, a talent that soared like the birds of his childhood above us all." No one spoke directly about the reasons behind his suicide, but it was clear from the eulogies that McQueen had been a complex, occasionally tormented individual who was often unable to enjoy his rare gift. He had a history of depression and was said to be devastated

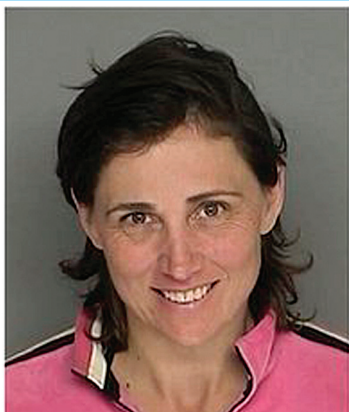
by the loss of his mother, who died on Feb. 2. McQueen's body was found in his London apartment nine days later. Even his close friends admitted he was almost as quick with a straight-to-the-guts insult as he was with a deeply felt compliment. "He was a designer with an unparalleled vision of the future, but he was dragged down by his demons," said International Herald Tribune fashion editor Suzy Menkes. "McQueen was a mix of the savage and the romantic." She drew a laugh commenting on the "misogynistic" quality of one of McQueen's last pair of shoes, the notorious "lobster claws" with 10-inch (25-centimeter) heels favored by Lady Gaga. Indeed, one model wearing McQueen high heels did take a tumble on the cobbled stones outside the cathedral. Icelandic singer and actress Bjork, wearing an unusual McQueen outfit complete with mock wings, sang "Gloomy Sunday," a dark song dealing with death and loss popularized by American singer Billie Holiday. Jewelry designer Shaun Leane spoke about his long, intense friendship with McQueen — making a joke about how McQueen would have enjoyed the grand setting for his service — and leading hatmaker Philip Treacy read one of the prayers. After the service, a lone bagpiper — reflecting McQueen's Scottish roots — led the mourners out of the cathedral, joining other pipers on the steps of the venerable building, a 17th century masterpiece designed by Christopher Wren. □



FILE - In this Jan. 6, 2010 file photo, Queen Latifah hosts the People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)

Queen Latifah back to host People's Choice Awards

NEW YORK — CBS says Queen Latifah will be back again to host "The People's Choice Awards." CBS says she will be on board for her fifth consecutive year when the awards show airs on Jan. 5 from the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles. Mark Burnett will return as executive producer for his second year. In its 37th year, "The People's Choice Awards" is voted on entirely by the public for their favorites in music, movies and television. Fans can now vote online for any of 15 suggested new categories. □



These booking photos provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office shows actor Randy Quaid and his wife Evi Quaid. Police arrested the Quaid Saturday Sept. 18, 2010 on charges of felony residential burglary and entering a non-commercial building without consent, a misdemeanor. Police also charged Evi Quaid with resisting arrest.

(AP Photo/Santa Barbara County Sheriff)

Randy Quaid, wife released after squatter arrests

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Authorities say actor Randy Quaid and his wife have been released on bail after their weekend squatting arrests for moving into a home they reportedly sold years ago in California. Santa Barbara County sheriff's spokesman Drew Sugars says the Quaid's were arrested Saturday after an alarm went off at the Montecito home and the couple was found living in a guest house. The 59-year-old actor known for roles in "National Lampoon's Vacation" movies and his wife, Evegena, were booked for investigation of felony residential burglary and misdemeanor entering a building without consent. The Quaid's were released on \$50,000 bail early Sunday. The couple's lawyer would not comment. □



Recession ended in June 2009: NBER

WASHINGTON — The recession ended in June 2009, making it the longest downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the National Bureau of Economic Research said on Monday.

The NBER, considered the arbiter of U.S. recessions, said its declaration did not mean the economy had “returned to operating at normal capacity” and cautioned that economic activity sometimes remains below normal well into expansion.

President Barack Obama, under pressure to speed up the pace of recovery and drive down unemployment as November congressional elections near, said the official end of the recession did not change the grim reality for many people.

“Economists may say that

the recession officially ended last year,” Obama said. “Obviously for the millions of people who are still out of work, people who have seen their home values decline, people who are struggling to pay their bills day to day, it’s still very real for them.” The NBER’s business cycle dating committee, a private sector group composed of academic economists, is notorious for taking its time in declaring the start and end of recessions.

The committee said it waited to make its decision this time because it wanted to review revised data on national income, released August 27, to get a clearer reading on the path of economic output in 2009.

After a meeting in April, some of the panel’s members said they were concerned the

economy could dip back into negative territory. In Monday’s announcement, the NBER said any fresh downturn would mark a new recession, not a continuation of the one that began in December 2007.

“The basis for this decision was the length and strength of the recovery to date,” the NBER said.

U.S. officials have been struggling to find a way to speed up a sluggish recovery that has left unemployment at a painfully high 9.6 percent. The U.S. Federal Reserve’s policy-setting committee meets on Tuesday, and is widely expected to discuss whether additional measures are warranted to bolster the economy.

“Due to the lack of improvement in the labor market, particularly the stubbornly high unemployment rate,



A woman stocks up on bread at Sacred Heart Community Center in San Jose, Calif., Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010. The ranks of the working-age poor climbed to the highest level since the 1960s as the recession threw millions of people out of work last year, leaving one in seven Americans in poverty.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

the recovery still feels like a recession to many households,” said Harm Bandholz, chief U.S. economist at UniCredit

Research in New York. “The NBER does not seem to be too enthusiastic about the economic outlook either.”



In this Sept. 17, 2010 photo, a trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks are set to extend their September rally into a fourth week Monday, Sept. 20, as traders eye the Federal Reserve’s meeting in the coming days.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks extended their September rally into a fourth week Monday as investors hoped for more moves by the Federal Reserve to prop up the economy.

Buying accelerated after the Standard & Poor’s 500 index broke through the high end of its recent trading range. Technical analysts see that as

a hopeful sign for the market. The S&P 500, the index most closely tracked by professional investors, rose to its highest level since May 18. The Dow Jones industrial average rose nearly 110 points in afternoon trading. Buyers were also encouraged by an announcement from a group of economists declaring that the most recent recession ended in June 2009.

Stocks extend Sept. rally; S&P breaks out of range

There is a growing expectation that the Fed’s rate-setting committee could relaunch programs to buy Treasuries and mortgage bonds in an effort to further stimulate the struggling economy. At the very least, it might hint at future plans to make such moves following its one-day meeting Tuesday.

“The Fed will hint at it, put it on the table, but not do anything,” said Brian Gendreau, a market strategist at Financial Network Investment Corp.

While many economic indicators have topped forecasts in recent weeks, propelling stocks higher, the economy is far from strong. If the Fed starts buying bonds again it could drive interest rates lower, enabling companies and consumers to get cheaper loans. The Fed had a similar bond-buying

program in place earlier this year. Treasury prices were little changed Monday.

In corporate news, IBM Corp. said it would buy data storage provider Netezza Corp. for about \$1.7 billion in cash. Investors see acquisitions a sign companies are more comfortable using their spare cash built up during the recession in order to expand. “At some point, if growth continues you have to get that money your sitting on working for you,” said Cameron Short, a senior vice president at Stifel Nicolaus.

The Dow rose 109.67, or 1 percent, to 10,717.52 in afternoon trading. The Dow has risen three straight weeks and is up 7 percent so far this month. However it’s still more than 4 percent below its high for the year. The Nasdaq

composite index rose 25.32, or 1.1 percent, to 2,340.93.

The S&P 500 rose 12.02, or 1.1 percent, to 1,137.61.

The S&P 500 climbed solidly above the key technical level of 1,131 Monday morning, the high end of its recent trading range. The S&P briefly crossed that barrier on Friday for the first time since June 21, but not for long enough to convince analysts that the market had enough momentum to surge higher. Many automatic buy and sell orders are set around market milestones such as these, and investors watch those levels closely for clues about which way the market may go next. Closing significantly above 1,131 Monday could provide enough momentum to drive stocks even higher in the coming days. □

IBM buying Netezza for about \$1.7 billion



IBM announced Monday it will acquire technology analytics firm Netezza in a cash transaction valued at 1.7 billion dollars.

By **ANDREW VANACORE**,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — IBM Corp. said Monday it has agreed to pay \$1.7 billion for Netezza Corp., a company that helps

businesses sort through data on corporate servers.

The deal would help IBM expand in an area known as “analytics,” where the company sees a major source

of growth over the next few years. IBM expects to grow annual revenue from analytics services, software and hardware sales to \$16 billion by 2015, up from \$9 billion last year. It estimates the total annual market now amounts to roughly \$100 billion.

IBM has been pushing into the analytics business through acquisitions.

The company says it has spent \$12 billion on 23 separate analytics companies over the past four years. Its biggest takeover in 2009 was a \$1.2 billion deal for SPSS Inc., a company that makes analytics software for predicting future trends.

Netezza’s software and hardware systems are designed

to help companies use data about their businesses to make strategic decisions. The British TV, Internet and phone service provider Virgin Media Inc. uses the technology to quickly assess how price changes or tariffs are affecting sales.

Netezza, which is based in Marlborough, Mass., with about 500 employees, also lists Neiman Marcus, Time Warner Inc. and NYSE Euronext Inc. among its customers.

IBM is offering \$27 per share for Netezza, a 10 percent premium over Friday’s closing share price of \$24.60.

In midday trading, Netezza shares had risen \$3.05 from Friday to trade at \$27.65, above the offering price. That could signal that investors are

expecting a competing bid.

IBM shares rose \$1.29 to \$131.48.

Big tech manufacturers have been snapping up smaller companies as they compete with one another to broaden the types of products and services they offer corporate clients.

Earlier this month computer maker Hewlett-Packard Co. topped Dell Inc. in a bidding war for data storage company 3Par Inc., eventually paying \$2.07 billion. Then last week, HP said it would also buy the network security company ArcSight Inc. for \$1.5 billion, branching into an industry where IBM has also made acquisitions over the past few years. □

Google defends shrinking China market share

By **JOE McDONALD**,
AP Business Writer

BEIJING — Google is hiring dozens of marketing and technical employees in China to defend a shrinking market share against local rivals after closing its Chinese search engine six months ago this Wednesday in a dispute over censorship.

Mainland users usually can reach Google’s Chinese-language site in Hong Kong, a Chinese territory with no Internet filtering. That has helped Google retain its rank as China’s second-most-popular search engine but Hong Kong access is occasionally blocked and some users have defected to local alternatives, mostly to market leader Baidu.com.

Google Inc. has kept a research and development center and advertising sales offices in China and is promoting its Android operating system for mobile phones. It launched what it says is a “large-scale recruiting campaign” for at least 40 posts this summer, from national marketing manager to software designer. “Our engineering teams in Beijing and Shanghai continue to focus on bringing a steady stream of innovation to our services in China,” the

company said in a written response to questions.

The hiring has stirred local fans’ hopes the China search engine might reopen, though Google has given no indication of that. None of its job advertisements mentions a connection to the China site, Google.cn.

“The signal that Google are on a hiring spree might suggest they are getting a little movement in talks with the government,” said Edward Yu, president of Analysys International, a Beijing research firm.

Google did not immediately respond to questions about its contacts with the government and whether it hoped to reopen the Chinese search engine.

Google’s January announcement that it no longer wanted to cooperate with Chinese censorship and might leave prompted an outcry by local users. The government, startled and embarrassed by Google’s public defiance, didn’t budge and the China search engine closed March 22. Communist leaders promote Web use for education and business but block material deemed subversive or obscene. Google objected to being required

to exclude search results for banned sites.

China is the world’s most populous Internet market, with more than 420 million people online, but Google has said little about its plans for this country, leaving local users and industry analysts guessing.

“I think Google will come back to China,” said Qiao Fan, a 27-year-old freelance website designer. He set up the fan site <http://www.gogoogle.com> to promote Google to Chinese users.

“Some Google products you just can’t find on other services,” Qiao said, citing the company’s e-mail and friend-finding features.

Qiao draws hope from the fact that Google put in the effort to renew its license to operate Google.cn in July. That site includes a button users can click to reach the Hong Kong site and links to Google services not covered by censorship.

“I think because of that, they are making preparations to come back,” Qiao said.

Revenues are flowing in from Chinese advertisers that want to reach customers abroad through the company’s U.S. site or mainland users of the



FILE - In this Jan. 15, 2010 file photo, people use computers at an Internet cafe in Fuyang in central China’s Anhui province. Google is hiring dozens of marketing and technical employees in China to defend a shrinking market share against local rivals after closing its Chinese search engine six months ago this Wednesday, Sept. 22 in a dispute over censorship.

(AP Photo, File)

Hong Kong site.

Google received 24.2 percent of China’s search engine revenues in the second quarter of the year, though that was down from the previous quarter’s 30.9 percent, according to Analysys International. Nearly all that lost business went to Baidu, which raised its market share from 64.2 percent to 70 percent.

Google declined to release sales figures. For now, China provides a small share of its revenues — an estimated \$250 million to \$600 million of this year’s projected \$28 billion total. But the world’s second-largest economy is expected to become more important as incomes rise and

more Chinese go online.

“On the advertising side we are bullish,” the company statement said. “We have a significant local sales presence in China and remain committed to helping Chinese businesses grow online and responding to the specific needs of our Chinese advertisers.”

Mainland users who still turn to Google are better educated, richer and more attractive to advertisers, so revenue per user is higher than average, said Yu.

Still, the lack of a China-based site puts Google at a disadvantage as it competes with Baidu and rivals such as Sogou.com and Alibaba, a Chinese e-commerce giant that has added a search service. □

Dresses, weddings and parties -- it's a dog's life

By Michelle Martin

BERLIN – A German woman has come up with a novel idea to give dogs going to weddings or festivals a bit of style.

Nicole-Juliana Schrei-Jakobi has discovered a new market: clothing for dogs. They can now look the part at the Oktoberfest in Lederhosen and dirndls -- a traditional dress with a blouse, bodice and apron.

The 36-year-old even has a dog buggy so her own Maltese dog does not get trampled in the crowds of people congregating at Bavaria's annual beer festival.

For male dogs invited to a wedding she offers dinner jackets with ties, whilst females can don bridal dresses replete with veils and trains or bridesmaid outfits.

Her own dog, Emmily, who recently won first prize for the best-dressed dog in the contest "Germany's next dog model," will be wearing one of the bridesmaid dresses soon.

"I'm getting married in October and Emmily will be the bridesmaid," Schrei-Jakobi told Reuters. "She will of course be appropriately dressed for her role."

She said demand for her products is growing and people increasingly want extravagant festive clothing for their dogs.

The dog lover also stocks seasonal ranges, with raincoats available for winter and sunglasses for summer.

"The sunglasses with 100 percent ultraviolet protection were a hit last summer," she said. "Maltese dogs and Chihuahuas have very sensitive eyes, especially if there's a draught, or if they are in a convertible car. But the sunglasses protect them."

At Easter Schrei-Jakobi organized a brunch for her customers' dogs. About 300 people attended the event, at which the dogs were provided with a free buffet and paw massage.

"It went down really well," she said.

Schrei-Jakobi hopes to open a restaurant catering for the four-legged creatures.

"I want to create a menu for dogs so that there can also eat out when their owners go to a restaurant," she said. □

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A Siberian tiger, also known as a Manchurian tiger, bares its teeth at a tiger park in China. A television crew filmed a “lost” population of tigers living at a higher altitude than any others known, raising hopes of linking isolated groups of the big cats across Asia, the BBC said Monday.

Tigers found at record altitude in boost for survival hopes

LONDON – A television crew filmed a “lost” population of tigers living at a higher altitude than any others known, raising hopes of linking isolated groups of the big cats across Asia, the BBC said Monday.

The cats were spotted roaming in the hills in the remote Himalayan nation of Bhutan by a conservationist and a team from the BBC’s Natural History Unit at a height of 4,100 metres (13,450 feet), said the broadcaster on its website.

“Tigers are thought of as jungle creatures and there is pressure on their habitats from all sides. Yet we now know they can live and breed at this altitude which is a safer habitat for them,” said tiger expert and conservationist Alan Rabinowitz, who led the expedition.

The team set up hidden cameras wedged into gullies and trees for six weeks to capture the first hard proof that the animals could live at such high altitude, following earlier anecdotal evidence, the BBC said.

The footage shows a male tiger and a female tiger at 4,100 metres and other tigers living at 3,000 metres, it added. Colour footage shows one tiger sniffing the air, while a night shot shows one of the animals prowling.

The female is lactating, suggesting they are breeding, said BBC cameraman Gordon Buchanan, who set up the camera traps that automatically filmed any creature that moved in front of them. He said he was “convinced that there must now be cubs somewhere on this mountain.” □

Bloodsucking Warrior Worms Destroy and Eat the Enemy

Charles Q. Choi

Parasitic worms may possess warrior castes just as social insects do - fearsome soldiers that rip and swallow enemies with their mouths to protect their colonies.

These bloodsucking worms could shed new light on how sociality evolved, researchers said.

Trematodes are parasitic flatworms commonly known as flukes. These flattened oval or worm-shaped creatures feed off their hosts’ blood using muscular, pumping mouths - as they have no anuses, their bodily wastes blurt out from their mouths as well.

It might seem unlikely that trematodes can form complex societies, since their brains consist only of a pair of nerve cell clusters. Still, researchers now find these flatworms can form colonies with standing armies and castes of reproductive breeders, just as seen with termites.

Slow, fat breeders Scientists focused on trematodes infecting mollusks such as marine snails. These parasites castrate their hosts and clone themselves over and over again, reaching numbers totaling up to 40 percent of their victim’s mass. Several different species of trematodes can infest a single host at the same time.

Past studies had revealed the flatworm species known as

Himasthla species B, which infects the California horn snail, *Cerithidea californica*, had reproductive breeders roughly 1.5-to-2-millimeters long. (For comparison, a pinhead is 2 mm in diameter.) However, in addition to these “primary morphs,” the investigators discovered smaller, thinner “secondary morphs,” which possessed relatively huge mouths they used as weapons.

“These sleek, agile soldiers defend the worm colony from invaders,” said researcher Ryan Hechinger, a zoologist at the University of California, Santa Barbara. “The other caste is comprised of reproductives, which are slow, big, fat, slug-like things that specialize on creating offspring.”

The warrior worms are each 0.5 percent to 4 percent the size of breeders in terms of bulk, yet their mouths are roughly the same size as those of their swollen compatriots. Whereas breeders barely moved, warriors were very active, wriggling about five times more.

Reality TV for worms

In experiments, warriors attacked seven different species of trematodes 100 percent of the time, either tearing at their bodies or eating them outright. They attacked trematodes of the same species from different colonies in other snails almost



A soldier trematode (flatworm) is attacking a reproductive trematode of a different species.

Photo by Ryan Hechinger.

all the time as well.

“We had a great time doing the attack experiments in the lab,” Hechinger said. “It was akin to those slightly sick kid games and TV shows where you pit different things against one another. Sometimes, when we pitted soldiers against soldiers from different colonies, the scene was akin to a bona fide battle royale - trematodes biting trematodes biting trematodes, shaking enemies in the air. The main difference is that they don’t throw each other around. Once they bite, they don’t let go.”

Warriors proved far more common at sites inside snails where other trematodes were most likely to invade from, while breeders lived far away from these battlefronts, mostly near their host’s reproductive organs. Although breeders could attack other trematodes, in experiments they did so at much lower rates.

Warriors don’t reproduce - none of the 173 warriors the scientists inspected had embryos within them, while 96 percent of the 143 breeders did. At the same time, these half-millimeter-long warriors do not generally appear to be juvenile forms of breeders - it remains uncertain whether a rare few warriors do go on to become breeders, or whether breeders are a completely separate lineage altogether.

Although warrior and breeder trematodes from the same colony may look quite different, as clones of each other, they are actually genetically identical. □

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Jefe ONU pide a donantes no desviar ayuda a pobres

NACIONES UNIDAS (Reuters) - El secretario general de Naciones Unidas, Ban Ki-moon, llamó el lunes a los líderes mundiales a no desviar la ayuda para los pobres para fortalecer sus propias finanzas, luego de una leve recuperación económica global.

“No deberíamos equilibrar los presupuestos en las espaldas de los pobres”, dijo Ban a los 140 líderes en una cumbre de tres días para revisar los Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM) -lanzados hace una década y acordados por la ONU- para el 2015.

“No debemos retirarnos de la asistencia oficial al desarrollo, una cuerda de salvamento de miles de millones para miles de millones”, agregó.

Naciones Unidas acordó que el mundo podría reducir la pobreza y el hambre a la mitad para el 2015, pero está retrasada en cumplir las otras metas de la iniciativa, que van desde la educación infantil y la igualdad de género a la sustentabilidad ambiental.

El presidente español, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, cuyo Gobierno redujo la ayuda

de desarrollo por una crisis fiscal y un alto desempleo, dijo que los países vivían complejas decisiones mientras intentaban revivir el crecimiento económico.

También señaló que el mundo debería considerar alternativas a programas de fondos para combatir la pobreza, el hambre y los cambios climáticos.

“Necesitamos esforzarnos más en buscar fuentes alternativas de financiamiento (...) que no son tan vulnerables como los presupuestos de los países desarrollados cuando se enfrentan con crisis como la que vemos hoy día”, agregó.

Al igual que el presidente francés, Nicolas Sarkozy, llamó a alguna forma de impuesto o transacción financiera para recaudar dinero para los más pobres, una idea rechazada largamente por el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) y varios en el grupo de las 20 economías desarrolladas y en desarrollo.

El Banco Mundial dijo que aumentará los gastos en educación en 750 millones de dólares durante los próximos cinco años, pese a que grupos humanitarios señalaron que la cifra no era suficiente. □

Honduras cierra consulado en México tras secuestro funcionarios

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - Honduras cerró de manera transitoria el lunes uno de sus consulados en México luego de que dos funcionarios fueran secuestrados temporalmente, dijo el lunes la cancillería en un comunicado.

El vicecónsul hondureño en Veracruz, Joel Aguilar, y un empleado del consulado, Jonny Padilla, fueron secuestrados el sábado mientras se desplazaban en un vehículo en la ciudad puerto de Veracruz, sobre el Golfo de México, y liberados el domingo, dijo la cancillería.

El secuestro ocurrió semanas después de la matanza de 72 inmigrantes en el nortero estado de Tamaulipas, vecino a Veracruz, donde murieron varios hondureños. El caso se encuentra bajo investigación aunque autoridades han señalado que los responsables serían sicarios del grupo del narcotráfico Los Zetas.

La cancillería hondureña solicitó al gobierno

de México “la asignación de seguridad a nuestros consulados y funcionarios en la República Mexicana, así como a nuestra sede diplomática en la Ciudad de México”, dijo el comunicado.

También instruyó el traslado de los funcionarios secuestrados a Tegucigalpa y el cierre temporal del consulado en Veracruz.

Tegucigalpa dijo que no descarta minimizar o suspender las actividades de sus consulados en Tapachula y San Luis Potosí, en caso de que “se determine que los mismos no cuentan con seguridades requeridas para un desempeño que proteja la integridad de nuestros funcionarios”.

Honduras tiene consulados en Veracruz, Tapachula, al sur de México y San Luis Potosí, en el centro, especialmente para atender a miles de emigrantes hondureños que tratan de llegar ilegalmente a Estados Unidos huyendo de la pobreza en esta nación centroamericana. □



Cumbre de los Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM) de las Naciones Unidas, en su oficina en Nueva York. Sep 20 2010 Países donantes ricos con dificultades presupuestarias apuntan a replantear su ayuda a naciones pobres. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

Obama se reunirá el viernes con presidente colombiano Santos

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - El presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, se reunirá con su par colombiano Juan Manuel Santos en el marco de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas esta semana, dijo el lunes la Casa Blanca.

La reunión el viernes en Nueva York será la primera de Obama con el ex ministro de defensa de Colombia desde que Santos asumió la presidencia en junio.

El libre comercio es un asunto clave entre los dos países. Obama indicó que está comprometido con trabajar en los pactos comerciales pendientes tanto con Colombia como con Panamá, pero también puso énfasis en que los acuerdos deberían ser justos para los trabajadores estadounidenses.

El asesor de seguridad nacional de la Casa Blanca Ben Rhodes dijo a periodistas que la reunión le permitiría a Obama felicitar a Santos por los comicios y “discutir formas que puedan fortalecer el progreso de nuestras relaciones bilaterales”.

Obama se reunirá con el primer ministro chino, Wen Jiabao, y el primer ministro japonés, Naoto Kan, el jueves. El viernes antes de la reunión con Santos, el líder estadounidense dialogará con el presidente de Azerbaiyán Ilham Aliyev sobre temas que incluirán la misión de Estados Unidos en Afganistán, indicó Rhodes. □



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